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## Center Becomes Fourth Sponsor of Natchez Literary Celebration

### Ninth Event Set for June 4-6, 1998

The Center is joining forces with the award-winning Natchez Literary Celebration, becoming the fourth sponsor of the annual event. "We are truly excited and delighted to have such a prestigious organization cosponsor our literary celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith, one of the founders and a current cochair of the NLC. Other sponsors are Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service, and the Natchez National Historical Park.

"It is with special pleasure that we will cosponsor the Natchez Literary Celebration," said Ann Abadie, acting director of the Center. "We have supported the celebration since its founding in 1990 and are honored to join the other sponsors in this important program. Through the years, the celebration has drawn both local and national audiences and has provided thousands of people with a new and enriched understanding of our region's literary experience."

The ninth NLC will be June 4-6, 1998, with the theme "The South: Its Land and Its Literature." More than a dozen scholars, writers, and lecturers have confirmed presentations. These include Joseph Blotner, who will talk about the influence of land on the writings of William Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren; Clifton Taulbert, who will discuss the Mississippi Delta; Courtney Parker, who will speak about regional foods; and Felder Rushing, who will talk about yard art and old-time garden objections.

Blotner is the author of biographies of Faulkner and Warren. Taulbert's books include *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*. Parker, an award-winning food journalist, is the author of *How to Eat Like a Southerner and Live*

to *Tell the Tale*. Rushing is the author of four books on Southern gardens, one of which, *Passalong Plants*, won a national award for the best gardening book in America in 1994.

Patricia Galloway, special projects officer at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, will talk about Choctaw Indians and their relation to the land, and historian James Wiggins Jr. will present "Land Fever: Settling the Old Southwest." John Michael Vlach, author of *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*, will present "Reflections of Antebellum Society in Southern Landscapes." Also confirmed as speakers are landscape architects Edward L. Blake Jr., whose talk is titled "Time, Place, and a Landscape's Architecture," and Gordon W. Chappell, who will speak on the use of the land by early settlers for both practical and aesthetic purposes.

In addition to Blotner, literary scholars signed up for the program include Peggy W. Frenshaw, who will discuss Southern women writers; Sterling Plumm, who will speak on blues and Mississippi writers; Jerry Ward, on Mississippi autobiographical voices. Also, Kenneth W. Holditch and Colby Kullman will discuss the use of the land in the dramas of Tennessee Williams, and Patrick Samway, S.J., will examine the influence of New Orleans on Southern Writers.

For additional information, contact Carolyn Vance Smith, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, MS 39121-0894; telephone 601-446-5874; fax 601-446-1296. Tickets are available by calling Natchez Box Office at 800-862-3259. For information about lodging and other arrangements, call the Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau at 800-647-6742.

# The South Its Land and Its Literature

All events will take place in The Natchez Hotel unless otherwise noted. Since the conference is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council, most presentations are free.

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

The Natchez Natchez Landscape Film Evening Pre-conference Activities

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. "Natchez and Calhoun" (DVD Video)

A Natchez to Historic Film Series, John B. Jordan (Host)

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. "Studying the Natchez Landscape: Up Close and Personal" (DVD)

History & Science at the Thomas Hall, St. Mary Catholic Church, 107 South Union Street, Chaired by **Ben Smith**, Adams County Agricultural Agent, Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service, Natchez, Introduced by **Carolyn Vance Smith**, Regional Director, Mississippi Technical Education, Capital-Louisiana Community College, Natchez



Smith

1:00 p.m. "Old Slave of Natchez Gardens," by **Elizabeth MacNeil**



MacNeil

1:00 p.m. "The Landscape of 19th-Century Natchez," by **Miss Miller**, Director of Preservation and Education, Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez



Miller

1:00 p.m. "Thomas Affleck: 19th-Century Horticultural Missionary," by **Susan Blanton**, Garden Designer, Jackson, Mississippi



Blanton

1:00 p.m. Old-Schooler Ben Carson Reads, Memorial Park near St. Mary Catholic Church, Hosted by the Institute for Learning in Retirement, Capital-Louisiana Community College, Natchez



Carson

1:00 p.m. "Natchez Place Materials of Natchez," by **Nancy Bates** Wolfenden, Natchez and Natchez, Natchez



Wolfenden

1:00 p.m. "Old-Garden House in the Natchez City Cemetery," by **Tim T. Brown**, Board Member, Historic Site Foundation, Natchez



Brown

1:00 p.m. "Natchez, Natchez, and Natchez: The 'Natchez' in the Natchez Natchez City Cemetery," by **Ben Smith**, Regional Tour Guide, Natchez



Smith

1:00 p.m. Questions and Answers

4:00 to 5:00 p.m. "Uncovering the Landings," A Riverside Tour with Refreshments and Snacks

Edi Tabor - Includes Transportation from The Natchez Hotel (Free)

4:00 to 5:00 p.m. "Let's Take a Small Boat Trip," a Guided Tour of a Victorian Port Called the Natchez City Cemetery, Cemetery Road

Edi Tabor - "Sipping and Sipping in Natchez" at the Natchez Whimsical Hall, Overlooking the Mississippi River, Cemetery Road

## Natchez Literary Celebration Conference Agenda

Thursday, June 4, 1998

8 a.m. Welcome and Introductions by **Donald C. Karpas**, President, Capital-Louisiana Community College, Natchez, Mississippi & **William L. "Buck" Brown**, Mayor of the City of Natchez, and **Larry D. Waters**, President, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Director of Programming for the Celebration, Jackson, Mississippi



Karpas Brown

9:00 a.m. "The Landscapes of Memory: Land and Culture in the American South," by **Charles Reagan Wilson**, Professor of History and Southern Studies and Director of the Southern Studies Program, The Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, Oxford. Introduced by **Chas Ray**, Executive Director, Mississippi State Board of Community and Junior Colleges, Jackson



Wilson

9:00 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:00 a.m. "A Region's Perspectives of Colonial Gardens," by **Geoffrey W. Chappell**, Director of Landscapes and Gardens, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Introduced by **Ann J. Meeley**, Acting Director, The Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, Oxford



Chappell

10:00 a.m. Booksigning/Signing Meeting, Followed by Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. "The Natchez-Savannah Trade: Re-Visioning the Plantation Landscape," by **John Michael** Vlach, Chair, American Studies Program, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., Introduced by **Kennerly Spill**, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture, Jackson



Vlach Spill

1:00 p.m. Refreshment Break

1:00 p.m. "The Natchez-Savannah Trade: Re-Visioning the Plantation Landscape," by **Page W. Pennington**, End C. Pitt Professor of Southern Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and "A Dark, Wild World: The Case for the Lost Natchez," by **W. Kenneth** Hilditch, Professor of English, The University of Mississippi, Oxford. Introduced by **John D. Brown**, Professor of History, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg



Pennington Hilditch

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Brown

1:00 p.m. Booksigning/Signing Meeting, Followed by Lunch Break

Friday, June 5, 1998

9 a.m. "Time, Place, and a Landscape's Architecture," by **Edward**



Edwards

Landscape Architect, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, President, Adams State College

9 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:00 a.m. "Natchez Gardens - A History of the City of Natchez, Mississippi," by **Elizabeth MacNeil**, Natchez, Mississippi, and **Larry D. Waters**, President, Adams State College



MacNeil Waters

10:00 a.m. Booksigning/Signing Meeting

10:00 a.m. "The Natchez-Savannah Trade: Re-Visioning the Plantation Landscape," by **Page W. Pennington**, End C. Pitt Professor of Southern Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and "A Dark, Wild World: The Case for the Lost Natchez," by **W. Kenneth** Hilditch, Professor of English, The University of Mississippi, Oxford. Introduced by **John D. Brown**, Professor of History, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg



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Edwards

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Brown



The Pencock house at 508 First St. now occupied by the Chapeaus, Lewis & Brown law firm was well known to Tennessee Williams who lived just a block away. Charles Clark remembers a dim child light that included himself, his sister Phil Clark, the late Eddie Pencock, and Tom Williams. The playwright immortalized the sickness of Pencock's sister "Baby Doll" for the music version of his play *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*.

MISSISSIPPI  
**ARTS**  
COUNCIL

*This project is supported in part by a grant from the  
Mississippi Arts Commission & the National  
Endowment for the Arts*



# TENNESSEE WILLIAMS FESTIVAL

October 15-17, 1998

For ticket information, contact The Tennessee Williams Festival, Box 1565, Clarksdale, MS 38614 or telephone the Chamber of Commerce: 601-627-7337.

When the flamboyant and successful attorney J.W. Cutler and his wife Blanche Clark Cutler, daughter of Clarksdale founder John Clark, built their Italian Renaissance villa, it was the setting for gala parties, masked balls with international guests later converted into characters in Tennessee Williams' plays. The name "Blanche" is "Blair" and J.W. Cutler is said to be the model for Dr. John Buchanan in *"Summer and Smoke"* and "Bourgeoisess" in *"A Nightingale"*. The Cutler house at 199 Clark St. now is part of St. Elizabeth School.



Big Daddy Puller's 28,000-acre cotton plantation included "the richest land this side of the valley Nile."

--"Cat On a Hot Tin Roof"



## Moon Lake Casino

Moon Lake and the Moon Lake Casino now Uncle Henry's Place figure prominently in many Tennessee Williams works. As a child he stopped there with his grandfather enroute to parish calls in Tunica.



The Rev. Walter Dakin, Tennessee Williams' grandfather, was rector of St. George's Episcopal Church for 16 years. The family lived next door in the church rectory, now the church office at 106 Sharkey.

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# Tennessee Williams's Mississippi Delta: A Chronology

**1904** -- St. George's Episcopal Church, Clarksdale, is completed. The Rectory, next door, is built about the same time.

**1909** -- Tennessee Williams's older sister Rose is born.

**1911** -- On March 26, Tennessee Williams is born "Thomas Lanier Williams" in Columbus, Mississippi, on Palm Sunday. "My father, a man with the formidable name of Cornelius Coffin Williams, was a man of ancestry that came on one side from early settlers of Nantucket Island in New England. My mother (Edwina Dakin) was descended from Quakers. Roughly there was a combination of Puritan and Cavalier strains in my blood which may be accountable for the conflicting impulses I often represent in the people I write about."

**1915-1933** -- The Reverend Walter Dakin, Tennessee Williams's grandfather, serves as rector St. George's Episcopal Church from Christmas 1915 until 1933. (Mrs. Dakin, Tennessee Williams's grandmother, named "Rosina" ["Rose"], is called "Grand" by the Williams children.)

**1918** -- Tennessee Williams's younger brother Dakin is born.

**1916-1918** -- Tennessee Williams lives with the Dakins in Clarksdale during this time. He has diphtheria in 1917 and is probably a year late in going to first grade. These are the happiest years of his life and the only time he feels safe and secure. A few years later, he returns to Clarksdale to spend time with his grandparents and attend the fourth grade there.

**1918** -- The Williams family moves north when Tennessee Williams's father, a traveling shoe salesman, is appointed to an office position in St. Louis. Williams begins writing at this point.

**1928** -- During the summer of 1928, Tennessee Williams tours Europe with his grandfather, the nominal head of a church group (some from Clarksdale). They sail from New York on the White Star Line SS *Homerick*. Among the places they visit are Paris, Marseilles, Monte Carlo, Naples, Rome, Milan, Florence, Venice, parts of Switzerland and Germany, and Amsterdam.

**1944** -- Mrs. Dakin dies.

**1955** -- Reverend Dakin dies.

**1983** -- Tennessee Williams dies on February 24.

**1996** -- Rose Williams dies during the summer of 1996. (Tennessee Williams had set up a trust for her care.)

**1998** -- Dakin Williams survives and attends Clarksdale's Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival each October where he shares family stories, reads from his own published poetry and prose, tells his story of how his brother was murdered, and performs monologues as "Blanche du Bois."



The ninth annual  
Natchez Literary Celebration  
Natchez, Mississippi • June 3-6, 1998

## The South Its Land and Its Literature

From vast Delta cotton fields to snow-capped Smoky Mountains, from kudzu-covered hills to moss-draped swamps, from red clay river banks to sandy Gulf Coast beaches.

Land in the South—the overpowering sense of place—has influenced writers for generations. Novelist William Faulkner fictionized the land of his North Mississippi home and called it Yoknapatawpha County. Playwright Tennessee Williams set *Big Daddy* in the middle of a giant plantation. Sherman Moody Waters penned lyrics about the Delta land around him.

The 1998 Natchez Literary Celebration will explore the South and its love affair with the land. For four days, writers, historians, landscape architects, horticulturists, and local experts will meet in Natchez to discuss the legacy of Southern land on the region's history, literature, and culture.

The Natchez Literary Celebration, winner of an Olympic award for humanities programming, is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Natchez National Historical Park, and the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

Chairing the event are Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln, James F. Barnes Jr. of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Robert Dodson of the National Park Service, and Ann J. Abadie of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

The National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council has provided financial support so that most of the Celebration's lectures are free of charge at The Natchez Hotel. Reasonably priced evening seminars on historic gardens, tours of antebellum mansions, a concert, meals, movie screenings, and other activities at sites away from the hotel will enhance the academic lectures. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis and can be ordered using the form on this brochure.

Organizers of the Natchez Literary Celebration look forward to joining you for four days of analyzing "The South, Its Land and Its Literature."

Photograph by William Harrison, Adams County, Mississippi, 1930. Courtesy of the U.S. Cotton/Flaxseed Marketing Foundation.

Admission: Free

Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
11 Collin Circle  
Natchez, MS 39010

The Ninth Annual Award-Winning Natchez Literary Celebration  
June 3-6, 1998 • Natchez, Mississippi

The South  
Its Land and Its Literature

Seating  
Organizations  
and Groups  
may reserve  
seats for  
their groups  
by calling  
601-442-1111

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## TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'S MISSISSIPPI DELTA

Colby H. Kullman  
Natchez Literary Festival, June 4, 1998

"I write out of love for the South. But I can't expect Southerners to realize that my writing about them is an expression of love. It is out of a regret for a South that no longer exists that I write of the forces which have destroyed it." Tennessee Williams

"The whistful beauty of the past is always an element in the work of Tennessee Williams. Blue is the color of distance and it is also the color of memory--a symbol of longing for the sweet bird of his youth in a country touched with the merciful blur of remembrance. His characters live beyond the fleeting moments of the drama, back into a glowing past of youth, purity, honor--all the ideals that have crumbled along with the family fortunes and mansions." Clarence John Laughlin's *Ghosts along the Mississippi*

"Before I was eight, my life was completely unshadowed by fear. I lived in a small Mississippi town. My mother and my sister and I lived with our grandparents while my father traveled around the state selling clothing for men. My sister and I were gloriously happy . . ." Tennessee Williams

"I always thought of Tom as a small pitcher with big ears. He would sit perfectly quiet never saying a word, listening with every sinew. I don't imagine he missed a trick on these calls" [he would accompany his grandfather on parish calls]. Edwina Dakin Williams's *I Remember Tom*

" . . . We sailed paper boats in washtubs of water, cut lovely colored paper dolls out of huge mail-order catalogs, kept two white rabbits under the back porch, baked mud pies in the sun upon the front walk, climbed up and down the big wood pile collecting from neighboring alleys and trash piles bits of colored glass that were diamonds and rubies and sapphire and emeralds." Tennessee Williams

"It was a tragic move [the move to St. Louis in 1918]. Neither my sister nor I could adjust ourselves to life in a Midwestern city. We suddenly discovered there were two kinds of people, the rich and the poor, and that we belonged to the latter. . . . It produced a shock and a rebellion that has grown into an inherent part of my work." Tennessee Williams

"I changed it [my name] to Tennessee Williams, the justification being mainly that the Williamses had fought the Indians for Tennessee and I had already discovered that the life of a young writer was going to be something similar to the defense of a stockade against a band of savages." Tennessee Williams

"By the time death came, he had been so close to it so many times, psychologically, emotionally and physically, that it was probably just a shave and a haircut to him. We are all diminished by his death. Lessened by his passing. If we had a culture that gave full support and assistance to a man of his delicacy, perhaps he would have survived. There is no real solace or cultural support for artists who find it difficult to find root in this culture, which is so hard and fast and commercial. His was a wounded life." Marlon Brando

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TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'S MISSISSIPPI DELTA:  
A Selective Bibliography

Colby H. Kullman  
Natchez Literary Festival, June 4, 1998

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*Grand*. New York: House of Books, 1964.  
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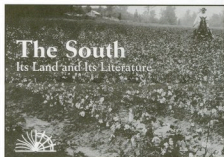
Special "Thanks!" to Kenneth Holditch, Panny Mayfield, and Clarksdale's "Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival."

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# MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES

## 1998-1999 CALENDAR

1998



**June 4-6, Natchez**

### **The South: Its Land and Its Literature**

The 1998 Natchez Literary Celebration will feature 18 lectures by scholars and writers exploring the impact of the land on America's South during the past two centuries on literature, history, and culture. Related to the theme will be tours of historic buildings associated with the planter culture, a film, literary awards, exhibits, an event featuring Southern foods, a garden party, and book signings. Numerous opportunities will be given for audience members to interact with the scholars and writers. Contact Carolyn Vance Smith at (601) 446-1213 for more information.

**June 9, Jackson**

### **Our Nation's Colors Exhibit, Mississippi Museum of Art**

Lecture by Dr. Randall Griffin of Southern Methodist University will address the work of Winslow Homer. The uniquely American style of Homer, despite the profound European influence on American culture at the time, will be the focus of the lecture. For additional information contact Joanna Sternberg at (601) 960-1515.

**June 13, Aberdeen**

### **McKnight Photographic Collection Exhibition, Evans Memorial Library**

The exhibition features 60 photographs made by Frank Summerfield McKnight, a studio photographer in Aberdeen from 1894 until 1932. The collection consists of his camera, camera stand, studio registers and 13,000 glass negatives. Because McKnight served a clientele of all races and social classes, McKnight's photographs are a unique window into Mississippi at the turn of the century. The images include street scenes as well as studio portraits of individuals and groups from throughout the region. Contact Kathy Bailey at (601) 369-4601 for more information.

**June 13, Jackson**

### ***S'il Vous Plait et Merci: A Children's Primer for the Versailles Exhibition***

The children of the Jackson area have the opportunity to enhance their enjoyment of the Versailles Exhibit by learning about French culture and language through this special program held at the South Hills Library. For more information contact the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation at (601) 354-2787.

**June 15-26, Jackson State University**

### **Teaching Teachers and Students: An Institute on the Southern Civil Rights Movement and the Southern Labor Movement**

This two-week institute, to be held at the University Center on the campus of Jackson State University, will feature lectures on the nexus between the Southern Civil Rights Movement and the Southern Labor Movement. Specifically, the institute will introduce teachers and students to the profound impact that these movements have had upon the expansion and redefinition of citizenship and democracy in America. Related to the theme will be tours of historic places and buildings associated with the Civil Rights and Labor Movements. Contact Calvin Miller at (601) 968-2136 for more information.

## OUR NATION'S COLORS

**A Celebration of American Painting  
Selections from the Wichita Art Museum**

**Mississippi Museum of Art, March 7–July 27, 1998**

**June 27, Madison**

### ***S'il Vous Plait et Merci: A Children's Primer for the Versailles Exhibition***

The children of the Jackson area have the opportunity to enhance their enjoyment of the Versailles Exhibit by learning about French culture and language through this special program held at the Madison Public Library. For more information contact the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation at (601) 354-2787.

**\* ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CONFIRM THE PROGRAM DETAILS BEFORE ATTENDING ANY MHC-SPONSORED EVENT. CALENDAR INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS BUREAU PROGRAMS AND MENIGRANTS IS AVAILABLE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT <http://www.jhs.state.ms.us/mhc/index.html>**

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**MARION SMITH**

**NATCHEZ, MS**



The Ninth Annual  
Olympic Award-Winning

**Natchez Literary Celebration**

presents

***THE SOUTH: ITS LAND  
AND ITS LITERATURE***

The Natchez Eola Hotel  
Natchez, Mississippi

**June 4-6, 1998**

featuring  
lectures by such writers and scholars as

- Faulkner Expert **Joseph Blotner**
- Black Studies Professor **Sterling Plumm**
- Welty Scholar **Peggy Prenshaw**
- Horticulture Specialist **Felder Rushing**
- Percy Family Authority **Patrick Samway**
- Pulitzer Prize Nominee **Clifton Taulbert**

and related events including

- Tours of Historic Homes and Gardens
- Old-Fashioned Dinner on the Grounds
- Showing of Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"

Events are free or low-cost.

For information, call (601)446-1242.

For tickets, call 1(800)862-3259.

*This event is sponsored by  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History,  
Natchez National Historical Park  
of the National Park Service,  
and The University of Mississippi's  
Center for the Study of Southern Culture*

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# Ford, Campbell earn NLC's top honors

## Special to The Democrat

It may be hard to believe that award-winning author Richard Ford suffered from dyslexia.

And, it may be even harder to believe that nationally acclaimed writer Will Campbell once was an itinerant farmer.

Both statements are true of the Mississippi natives, who are this year's selections for the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to be presented during the 9th Annual Natchez Literary Celebration June 3 through 6.

Ford, though, overcame his affliction with help from his mother, Edna (Atkin) Ford, and went on to become one of the country's prolific fiction writers.

And, Campbell's farm life was short-lived, but he worked the theme of the land into many of his highly reviewed books.

It may be fitting that these two men

receive the award — the NLC's most prestigious honor — because of their reverence for Wright and his works. Both writers attribute their success in part to reading Wright's works.

Thus, it's appropriate they will be honored in Natchez, Wright's hometown. Ford will receive the award for fiction and Campbell the award for non-fiction.

"Richard Ford and Will Campbell are two of Mississippi's finest writers. It's interesting to note that one represents one generation and one represents another generation, and they are to receive the award at the same time," said Dr. David Sansing, professor of history emeritus at the University of Mississippi and chairman of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Committee for the Natchez Literary Celebration.

"The two men have similar souls," Sansing said. "I don't know if they know each other. If not, there will be

an instant bond between them. They are two of America's treasures; they are the nation's natural resources."

Campbell and Ford will receive their awards Saturday evening, June 6, during the annual program titled, "Literary Giants: An Evening to Remember." That program, which will be held at the Natchezicola Hotel, includes a lecture by Dr. Joseph Blומר, professor of English emeritus at the University of Michigan. Blומר a foremost authority on Mississippi author William Faulkner.

Campbell, who lives in Tennessee, has written 16 books. His "Brother to a Dragonfly," was a Book of the Month selection and was reported by Time magazine as one of the 10 books of the 1970s worthy of surviving.

"Brother to a Dragonfly" was a finalist for the National Book Award and won both the Christopher Award



Ford



Campbell

and the Lillian Smith Prize.

Campbell also was the first recipient of the Allen Haley Memorial Award for Literary Distinction and is the 1994 recipient of the Tennessee Governor's Award for the Arts and the 1995 Governor's Humanities Award.

Other Campbell works, "Providence," "The Stem of Jesse," "The Soul of the South," and "The Chad River," are among his collection of books which won him the Lyndhurst Prize.

Campbell has had a varied life, besides being an itinerant farmer. He was a soldier in World War II, a university chaplain, civil rights activist, social worker and tour bus cook for his friend, Waylon Jennings.

Ford, who lives in New Orleans, also has had a varied life, even living for a time in a house across the street from Eudora Welty.

Although his early novels, "A Piece of My Heart" and "The Ultimate Good Luck," were not financial successes, he won rave reviews for "The Sportswriter," which Time chose as one of the best books of 1986 and which won a PEN/Faulkner citation.

And, after publishing his most recent novel, "Independence Day," Ford was dubbed, "one of his generation's most eloquent voices," by Michiko Kakutani of the New York Times.

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# Natchez Literary Celebration announces new sponsor

## Special in The Democrat

A new sponsor will join three others this year to produce the award-winning Natchez Literary Celebration, says the events founder and co-chairman, Carolyn Vance Smith of Copeland Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

"I am delighted to announce that the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture will become a fourth sponsor of the Literary Celebration this year," Smith said.

The center will join the founding institution, Copeland-Lincoln, as well as the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The sixth annual Literary Celebration is set for June 4 through 6, with the theme, "The South: Its Land and Its Literature."



Smith

special tours, meals, exhibits and films.

"The participation of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture will add a rich element of expertise to the celebration," Smith said. "During the past two decades, the center has led in the creation of immense interest in the South."

The new partnership came about through Smith's friendship with the center's former director, Dr. William Ferris, whom President Bill Clinton recently named director of the National

## Endowment for the Humanities.

Ferris and other leaders at the center have advised and assisted the literary celebration since its founding in 1990, Smith said.

"I want to my friends at Ole Miss for help because I have long admired the great things they continually accomplish," she said.

Smith has served on the center's advisory board for the past 10 years and has attended many of the center's educational conferences. In fact, one of these conferences inspired the literary celebration, she said.

"Dr. Ann Abadie, the new interim director of the center, was my mentor in setting up the first celebration," Smith said. "She has produced the famous William Faulkner Conference at Ole Miss for the past 25 years. It is in a class by itself."

Ferris likewise gave advice through the years, Smith said. "He also presented several out-

standing lectures at the celebration, including the keynote lecture in 1997."

Abadie will serve as co-chairman of the award-winning conference along with Smith, James F. Burton Jr. of Archives and History and Robert Dodson of the Natchez National Historical Park.

Abadie likewise expressed pleasure over the new partnership.

"It is with special pride that the Center for the Study of Southern Culture will co-sponsor the Natchez Literary Celebration," she said. "We are honored to join the other sponsors in this important program."

One reason for the match is the educational goal which all four sponsoring agencies have in common, Abadie said.

"Through the years, the celebration has drawn both local and national audiences and has provided thousands of people with a new and enriched understanding

of our region's literary experience," she said.

"It has won several prestigious awards for outstanding programming, including a national Olympic award, a state tourism award and a state Humanities Council award."

"Seeing this impressive celebration come alive in the historic homes and landscape of Natchez and Adams County makes the program truly unique."

As part of its co-sponsorship, Ole Miss has assigned Julia Cannon, a graduate student at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, to serve throughout spring semester in Natchez as an intern with the Literary Celebration. More than a dozen scholars and writers will present programs at the celebration, Smith said.

They include Dr. Joseph Blomer of Charlottesville, Va., who will talk about the influence of land on

the writings of William Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren; Clifton Taddei of Tulsa, Okla., who will discuss the impact the Mississippi Delta had on his life; Gordon W. Chappell, director of landscape at Colonial Williamsburg, Va., who will tell about the lands we see by early settlers; Dr. John Michael Vlach of Washington, D.C., a Black Studies professor who will discuss antebellum society in Southern landscapes; and horticulturalist/author Fritzer Ruchling of Jackson, who will speak on "pioneering plants" and yucca art.



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# Natchez Literary Celebration announces 1998 program

## Special to The Democrat

The Natchez Literary Celebration is putting the finishing touches on its ninth annual program, which is scheduled for June 3 through 6.



**Smith**

"We have splendid programs planned each and every day," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman. "All of our

programs blend well with our theme—'The South: Its Land and Its Literature,'" Smith said. "In fact, our celebration this year is so in-depth we will start one day earlier with special pre-conference activities.

In addition, the celebration will end by honoring two Mississippi-born prize-winning authors, Richard Ford and Will Campbell.

"In between will be a host of lectures, tours, book-signings and other events that will make this celebration one of our most special programs yet," Smith said.

Most of the events will be held at the Natchez Eola Hotel and many will be free.

One new aspect to the celebration is the addition of a fourth sponsor, the University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture, which joins Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"We now have four varied and high-caliber sponsors," Smith said.

The celebration's theme will be presented in a variety of ways, sometimes with tours of historic areas, including the Natchez City Cemetery, and Foster Mound properties and at other times by presentations by authors and scholars on references to the land in both fiction and non-fiction.

"For many generations of southerners, the land represents more than

property, but a lifestyle and a sense of place and belonging," Smith said. "It's that connection that we explore throughout the celebration. Our presenters also represent a broad perspective, from those who write about southern lifestyle to those who as historians have studied the South."

The celebration will feature speakers from Natchez's own backyard and across the country.

For example, Mimi Miller, director of preservation and history at the Historic Natchez Foundation will present "The Landscape of ISO Century Natchez," while Gordon W. Chappell, director of landscapes and facilities at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, will focus on "Virginia Perspective of Colonial Gardens."

As he has done every year, former Mississippi Gov. William F. Winter will open the celebration. Winter is president of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"We are also fortunate to have as our major speaker Dr. Joseph Blotner, professor of English emeritus at the University of Michigan, the foremost authority on William Faulkner," Smith said.

Blotner will speak on the land in the writings of Faulkner and author Robert Penn Warren.

A Natchez Literary Celebration regular presenter, Clifton Taulbert, author, lecturer and businessman from Tulsa, Okla., will present a special program, "At the End of the Turn Row: Reminiscences from the Mississippi Delta." Taulbert has spoken frequently in Natchez and at CoLin.

Other events scheduled include "Lunch with the Literary Lions," at Cherokee — a lecture, "The Mississippi and the Land," by "Rising Tide" author John Barry; a concert by the Natchez-Vidalia Community Band titled "The Southland's Favorite Music," and a traditional southern dinner on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College.

# NLC announces plans for 9th season

The Natchez Literary Celebration is putting the finishing touches on its ninth annual program, which is scheduled for June 3 through 6.

"We have splendid programs planned each and every day," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman. "All of our programs blend well with our theme: 'The South: Its Land and Its Literature.'"

Smith said, "In fact, our celebration this year is so in-depth we will start one day earlier with special pre-conference activities. And, we will wrap up the celebration in our usual fine style by honoring two Mississippi-born prize-winning authors, Richard Ford and Will Campbell.

"In between will be a host of lectures, tours, book-signings and other events that will make this celebration one of our most special programs yet."

Most of the events will be held at the Natchez Eola Hotel and many will be free.

One new aspect to the celebration is the addition of a fourth sponsor, the University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture, which joins Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service's Natchez National

*To help with the Natchez  
Literary Celebration,  
contact Carolyn Vance  
Smith at extension 208.*

Historical Park and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"We now have four varied and

high-caliber sponsors," Smith said.

The celebration's theme will be presented in a variety of ways, sometimes with tours of historic areas, including the Natchez City Cemetery and Foster Mound properties, and at other times by presentations by authors and scholars on references to the land in both fiction and non-fiction.

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Colin N - 504 mts  
Apr 19, 1998

# Natchez Literary Celebration announces schedule of events

## Special to The Democrat

From the vast cotton plantations to enormous oak trees, from lush climbing ledges to moss-draped swamps, from red-hot days to blues in the night.

Those images and more can be of only one place: the South. And the South's richest resource — its land — comes alive in the 9th Annual Natchez Literary Celebration June 3 through 6 in Natchez.

"Once again, we have put together a lineup of speakers and presenters whose knowledge covers a wide spectrum of the South, with particular emphasis on the land and its many uses," said Carolyn Vance Smith, NLC founder and co-chairman.

"In addition, we have coupled the daily lecture series with special events that make this year's Natchez Literary Celebration interesting and fun," Smith said.

The celebration is co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

### Wednesday, June 3 • "The Historic Natchez Landscapes"

11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.: "Gardens and Galleries" (500 Tickets) A Brunch at Historic Blue Court, John R. Jenkin Drive

1:30 to 5:30 p.m.: "Studying the Historic Natchez Landscapes: Up Close and Personal" (510 Tickets)

A Seminar at St. Thomas Hall, St. Mary Cathedral Church, 102 South Union St., chaired by Don Smith, Adams County agricultural agent, Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service, Natchez.

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.: "Natchez Gardens," by Dr. Elizabeth MacNeil Burgess, president, Archaeologists Unlimited, Natchez

2:05 p.m.: "The Landscape of 19th-century Natchez," by Miss. Miana Miller, director of preservation and education, Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez



**Hahon**

2-4:30 p.m.: "Thomas Affleck: 19th-Century Horticultural Missionary," by Mrs. Susan Hahon, garden designer, Jackson

4:15 p.m.: "Old Garden Rows in the Natchez City Cemetery," by Mrs. Terri Tillman, board member, Heritage Row Foundation, Natchez

4:45 p.m.: "Bushes, Bones, and Bins: The Plantings" in the Historic Natchez City Cemetery," by Mrs. Bob Byrnes, registered tour guide, Natchez

6:30 to 9 p.m.: "Overlooking the Landscape: A riverine tour with refreshments and supper (520 ticket) includes transportation from the Natchez Eola Hotel

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: "Let's Take a Stroll Before Supper: A Guided Tour of a Victorian Park Called the Natchez City Cemetery," Cemetery Road.

7 to 9 p.m.: "Jogging and Supping at Sunset" at the Maitland Wyomouth Hall overlooking the Mississippi River.

### Thursday, June 4

All lectures are at the Natchez Eola Hotel and are free except where noted.

9 a.m. Welcome and introductions by the director of proceedings, Foster George W. Williams Jr., winner, president of the Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez

9:15 a.m.: "The Landscapes of Memory: Land and Culture in the American South," by Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson, director of Southern Studies Academic Program, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi

10:30 a.m.: "A Virginia Perspective of Colonial Gardens," by Gordon W. Chappell, director of landscape and facilities, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia

11:30 a.m. book-signing honoring morning lectures followed by lunch break

1:30 p.m.: "The Non-Savory South



**Vlach**

4-4:45 p.m.: "The Plantation Landscape," by Dr. Jeff Michael Vlach, chief, American Studies Program, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

5:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.: "Landscape: Southern Women and the Land of Memory," by Dr. Peggy W. Frawdon, professor of Southern Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

8:45 p.m.: "A Dark, Wide World You Can Breathe In: Tennessee Williams and the Land," by Dr. W. Kenneth Hindrich, professor of English emeritus, the University of New Orleans, and Dr. Colby H. Kallman, professor of English, the University of Mississippi

4:45 p.m. book-signing honoring afternoon lectures followed by dinner break

8 p.m.: "Carlin a Hot Tin Roof," a showing of the award-winning film based on the drama by Tennessee Williams. (Free)

### Friday, June 5

All lectures are at the Natchez Eola Hotel and are free except where noted.

9 a.m.: "Time, Place, and a Landscape's Architecture," by Edward L. Hulse Jr., landscape architect, Hainsburg

10:15 a.m.: "Southern Gardens — A Melting Pot of Africa, Asia, and America: We are Getting Along," by Fekke Rauding, southern garden author and horticulture expert, Jackson

11:15 a.m. book-signing honoring morning lectures

11:45 a.m. luncheon, The Carriage House Restaurant on the Grounds of Stanton Hall (515 Tickets) with the lecture, "A Visit to the Boneyard," by Clyde Ray Wadler, southern historian, Ferris, La.

1:30 p.m.: "A Sacred Land: Choctaw Place Names and the Employment of Land Use," by Dr. Patricia Galloway, special projects officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson

2:45 p.m.: "Poak, Pont, and Poke: Favorite Froth of the Southland," by Ms. Courtney Padua, of Natchez, food columnist, The Clarion-Ledger

3:15 p.m.: "Aches and Pains, Thrills and



**Wiggins**

Chills: Symptoms of Land Fever at Foster Island, Mississippi," by James L. Wiggins Jr., History Instructor, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez

7:45 p.m. book-signing honoring afternoon lectures

4:30-7:30 p.m.: "Land Fever on Foster Island, Mississippi," a guided tour to four historic sites: Foster Island, Plantation, Mount Olive

Old Mary and Bluffside Jefferson College, with transportation, refreshments, and "Dinner on the Grounds," an old-fashioned meal at Jefferson College (550 ticket)

8 p.m.: "Lovers, Lament, and Landscape," First Presbyterian Church, 117 South Pearl St. (510 ticket), features the following:

■ "The Southland's Favorite Music," a concert by the Natchez-Vidalia Community Band

■ "The Delta 'Fire River' That Led to the World," a presentation by Clifton Thibault, of Thibodaux, La., author of "Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored"

■ "Brown's Gardens: A Vestal Vale," an exhibit from the Norman-Gentry Collection of Historic Natchez photographs, Scenic Chapel Gallery

■ Reception and book-signing honoring Thursday

### Saturday, June 6

All lectures are at the Natchez Eola Hotel and are free except where noted.

9 a.m.: "The Landscape and the Mississippi: Influences of New Orleans on the Writers William Faulkner, Eudora Welles, Walker Percy, and George Washington Cable," by Dr. Patrick Swanson, literary editor, America, N.Y.

10:30 a.m.: "The Mississippi and the Land," by John Barry, of New Orleans, author of "Rising Tide"

11:30 a.m. book-signing honoring morning lectures

12 p.m.: "Lunch with the Literary Lions" honoring conference authors, at the moon Chardonnay, hosted by BookFriends of the University Press of Mississippi (515 ticket for author members of BookFriends; \$50 ticket for non-member; \$60 ticket for two



**Ward**

1:30 p.m.: "From the Mississippi Earth: The Anthropographical Visions of Hella Warkentin, Eudora Ida Mae Hillstead, Richard Wright, and Anne Moody," by Dr. Jory W. Ward Jr., Dargie Professor of English, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi

2:15 p.m.: "Blues Language in the Works of the Mississippi Writers: Richard Wright, Moby Wooten, and Sterling Plumpp," by Sterling D. Plumpp, chairman, Black Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

3 p.m. book-signing honoring lectures

4 to 6 p.m.: "Literature and Landscapes," Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library, 223 South Commerce St., hosted by the Armstrong Library Board and Friends of the Library. This event includes the following:

■ Reception and book-signing honoring Greg Ben of Natchez

■ Exhibit of southern landscapes from the Schaff Collection and the Logan Sewell Collection

8 p.m.: "Literary Classics Are Emerging to Be Revisited" This event includes the following:

■ "And the Winner Ann..." the presentation of the Fifth Annual Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards to prize-winning Mississippi-born writers Will Campbell, author of Providence, Ms., Julian, Tennessee, and Richard Ford, author of "Independence Day."

■ "The American Land and American Writers: Robert Penn Warren and William Faulkner," a lecture by Dr. Joseph Blotner, professor of English emeritus, University of Michigan

8:15 p.m.: "Let's Celebrate with the Literary Giants," Historic Natchez Foundation, 108 South Commerce St., hosted by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture (510 Ticket)

■ Reception and book-signing honoring Campbell, Ford, and Blotner

■ "Legacy: An exhibit of Early Adams County properties prepared by California State University at Northridge



**Smith**

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# The Natchez Democrat

## Ninth annual Literary Celebration upcoming

Monday, May 11, 1998

Four sites named, 3A

**Sited to The Democrat**  
Tucked away on the north side of Natchez, a short distance behind the tall oaks and magnolias of Historic Jefferson College, is a section of Adams County rich in history.

Between the communities of Washington and Pine Ridge is historic Foster Mount Road, a four-mile stretch that originally was an official path and later an Indian trail leading from St. Catherine Creek to the Natchez Trace.

Today, a major county thoroughfare, Foster Mount Road boasts three private antebellum homes, all of which are associated with the Foster family which settled the area in the late 1700s.

Three homes, Mount Olive, Foster Mount and Glen Mary, will be open for guided tours from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on June 5 in a featured attraction of the ninth annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

On the way is Jefferson College, also closely connected to the Foster family.

The school, begun in 1802, is situated on a 38-acre site donated to the college by members of the Foster and Gilson families.

Refreshments will be served at Mount Olive, and an old-fashioned dinner on the grounds will be served at Jefferson College by members of the Kappa Methodist Churchwomen.

The tour and dinner relate to the literary conference's theme, "From South to Land and its Legacy." Free lectures on the influence of land on literature will take place June 4-6 at The Natchez Folsa Hotel.

The Celebration is co-



Lyns Bradford's home, Mount Olive, is going to be the setting for a guest speaker during the upcoming Natchez Literary Festival, scheduled for June 5.

sponsored by Copiah-Jackson Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez National Historical Park and The University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

"We're certainly excited to be included in the Natchez Literary Celebration's tour of homes," said Lyns Bradford. She and her husband, Dr. Craig A. Bradford, own Mount Olive, 74 Foster

Mount Road.

"It is important for people to learn about the Pine Ridge area because it has its own rich and unique history," she said.

"All Mount Olive people can expect to see an 1840s farm house that mirrors the architectural tastes and lifestyles of that era."

"No major changes have been made since the house was built except for modern conveniences," Bradford said.

"I remember visiting my grandparents at Glen Mary when I was a boy," said Martin Smith, who lives with his wife, Carolyn Vance Smith, at Glen Mary, 259 Foster Mount Road. "The property is on both sides of the road and was farmed in the 1940s by my grandfather."

"Through the years, the whole Smith family enjoyed the place. As I grew up, I always wanted to live there, because of the family connection."

The Natchez National Historic Landmark

"It was here, when we owned the home in the 1970s, that I began to really appreciate the drama and the call the Fosters gave Glen Mary when they built it."

"My wife calls Glen Mary a 'honeydew house,'" Smith said. "It lends itself to a family. Our children grew up there and love it as much as we do."

Jon Barnett, Director of Historic Properties for the Mississippi Department of

Archives and History in Natchez, said, "We're really looking forward to the program."

"Historic Jefferson College," once a military training school, will provide presentations about the college and the area by historians Clark Barker and Anne Gray," Barnett said.

"We'll interpret the history of the Mississippi Territory as well as the history of the college place. The two are bound together. We plan to touch on the connection with the Foster family, since the Fosters gave the land to Jefferson College."

Barnett said Historic Jefferson College "is a perfect setting for the dinner on the grounds."

Earlier June 5, at 3:15 p.m.

James Wiggins Jr., Co-Lin history instructor, will present a long lecture at the field called "Natchez and Pine, Thrills and Chills: Symptoms of Land Growth." Foster Mount, Mississippi.

"Foster Mount has been inhabited since before the Natchez Indians entered as an identifiable people," Wiggins said.

"But eventually the Natchez came to this spot, then the Europeans, and ultimately also the Africans."

Foster Mount, a large antebellum mound near St. Catherine Creek, was called "White Apple" by the Indians, Wiggins said.

Other local mounds are at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and at Emerald Mound.

"The Foster family, consisting of Mary Foster and her four sons, came from South Carolina to a settle and develop thousands of acres in this part of Adams County," Wiggins said. "There were eventually many of the Foster family and, of course, for the road itself."

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Ted Wilson, a board member of the Heritage Rose Foundation in Natchez, tends to some of the old garden roses growing in the Natchez City Cemetery. Wilson will present a program entitled "Old Garden Roses in the Natchez City Cemetery" June 3 during the Ninth Annual Natchez Literary Convention. The theme of this year's celebration is "The South: Its Land and Its Literature."

# How do our gardens grow?

## Special to The Democrat

A Natchez's history unfolded over the past century for its people and architecture, a history unfolded for the land. From the Natchez Indians to the French to the Spanish and American, the music, food, words, customs and traditions were shaped, and the landscape was formed into farms, gardens and dwellings of beauty and function.

That one of the land—and especially the gardens—will be the focus of a full day of special presentations and tours on the first day of the Ninth Annual Natchez Literary Convention June 3 through 6 in Natchez.

"There will be a little bit of everything (about the land)," said Nan McGowan, executive director of Natchez, who will present "Historic Plant Materials of Natchez."

The day's program, entitled, "The Natchez Natchez Landscapes," will take place June 3 at three different locations. All compared to this year's 12.7 theme, "The South: Its Land and Its Literature."

The day features a kickoff brunch, called "Gardens and Gardens," at historic Stone Court on John F. Jonkin Drive, which boasts exquisite walled garden. Brunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and tickets are \$10.

In special segments are a seminar called, "Building the Natchez Landscapes," and will be presented beginning at 1:30 p.m. at St. Theresa Hall at St. Mary Catholic Church. The seminar is \$10. An old-fashioned tea comes next at Memorial Park near St. Mary Church will be included in the afternoon. Again will be members

of the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Central Louisiana Community College in Natchez. At the seminar McGowan will reveal her multi-faceted presentation, which will focus on Natchez gardens beginning with the 17th century. Gardens prior to that date will be explored by Dr. Elizabeth MacNeil Rogers, president of Archaeological Volunteers of Natchez, and who is co-authoring a book on Natchez gardens with McGowan. Rogers will present, "200 Years of Natchez Gardens."

Another garden presentation will be given by Miami Miller, director of preservation and education for the Historic Natchez Foundation, whose talk is titled, "The Landscape of 19th Century Natchez."

Both Miller and McGowan said they have been researching these topics for several years, gathering information about the history of local planning and landscapes.

"What we picture as a southern garden—the one with lots of azaleas—didn't exist," said McGowan, who will offer a new perspective on how people decorated outside their houses and how they fanned, even to the city.

Her interest in the topic, she said, "It's an accumulation of a life's interest. I grew up in a yard full of flowers and in the days when you took flowers to the cemetery, they were ones you picked from your own garden."

Using two side programs simultaneously on land use and development in Natchez.

Using two side programs simultaneously on how each dominant resident of this area shaped

the land.

Was it the making, her presentation will incorporate slides of properties made from Adams County deed books by a database faculty member from California State University at Northridge. "I've had a lot of fun doing this research," Miller said.

Other sessions include "Thomas Affleck: 19th Century Fortification Masterpiece," by Bruce Hahn, garden designer of Jackson, "Old Charles House in the Natchez City Cemetery" by Ted Wilson, board member, Heritage Rose Foundation of Natchez, "Roses, Roses and Blue: The Planting of the Historic Natchez City Cemetery" by the Byrnes, registered cemetery tour guide.

The day's activities will conclude with a tour of the City Cemetery followed by supper at the mission, Waymouth Hall, overlooking the Mississippi River. The guided tour and supper, which includes transportation from the Natchez-Eads Hotel, are \$20.

The NLC is cosponsored by Capital-Louisiana Community College, the National Park Service, Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

To obtain tickets to one or more events, call the Natchez Office at (601-445-0313) or 1-800-865-1278, or write P.O. Box 1284, Natchez, MS 39070.

For more information, call 601-445-0313 or write P.O. Box 696, Natchez, MS 39070, or visit the web site: [www.316book.com/na](http://www.316book.com/na).



The Natchez City Cemetery is filled with old garden roses. Some of the roses may be more than 150 years old.



# The Natchez Literary Celebration

*presents*

"The South: Its Land and Its Literature"

June 3-6, 1998

The Natchez Eola Hotel  
Natchez, Mississippi

## Featuring

Free or low-cost events, including:

Lectures by such national writers and scholars as:

- John Barry, author of Rising Tide
- Joseph Blotner, authority on William Faulkner
- Will Campbell, author of Providence
- Richard Ford, Pulitzer Prize winner
- Felder Rushing, horticulture expert
- Clifton Talbert, author and film writer

As well as related tours of historic homes, films,  
exhibits, meals, music, and booksignings.

For information, call (601) 446-1242

For tickets, call 1-800-862-3259

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
National Park Service

University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture

Funded in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council

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# ROBINSON BUILDINGS INC

• **Junior Fishing Rodeo**, May 23, Ocean Springs. Children ages 4-13 fish at east end of Old Ocean Springs/Bikini Bridge, 7 a.m. until noon. Trophies, free bait and food. Sponsored by Ocean Springs Eiko Lodge 2501. Call 228-873-2501.

• **Day in the Park**, May 23, Quitman. Arts, crafts, entertainment, food, exhibits. Admission. Clarke State Park, 776-6631.

• **Discover Yazzo Festival**, May 23, Yazzo City. Arts and crafts, clowns, magicians, rides and games, musical acts, drama. Admission. Downtown. Call Yazzo Co. CVR, 746-1815 or 800-881-0662.

• **Civil War Reenactment**, May 23-24, Vicksburg. Confederate and Union soldiers will camp on grounds of historic McKaen Tour Home. Demonstrations in period textiles, cooking, fashions, music and skirmishes. Free. Call McKaen Tour Home, 636-0663.

• **Blessing of the Fleet**, May 24, Pass Christian. Decorated boats on parade. Food, entertainment and music. Free. West side of Small Craft Harbor. Call Pass Christian CC, 452-2252.

• **"Wings Over Meridian '98,"** May 24, Meridian. Air show to feature the Navy's Blue Angels, a C-130 jet-assisted takeoff and other military aircraft performances. Free; gates open 10 a.m. Naval Air Station Meridian, 679-2318 or 679-2602.

• **"Ashore to America: Discovering a South-**

**ern Jewish Heritage,"** May 29 - Aug. 31, Jackson. Exhibit reflects lives of early Jewish pioneers to the Mississippi River region. Admission. Miel Center, downtown; 362-6357.

• **Red Hills Arts Festival**, May 28-30, Louisville. Arts, crafts, food, entertainment, rides, quilt show, street party. Main Street, downtown. Call 773-3921.

• **Daylily Show**, May 30, Hattiesburg. Hundreds of daylilies, elegantly displayed. Turtle Creek Mall, 1-7 p.m. Call Earl Watts, 268-3884.

• **Big Sand Festival**, May 30, Carrollton. Arts, crafts, antique autos, art show, entertainment. Call Carroll Society for the Preservation of the Antiquities, 237-9530 or 237-6671.

• **Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Country Music Festival**, May 30 - June 6, Meridian. Pageants, talent contests, golf tournament, nightly concerts, more. Highland Park and Temple Theater. Call 482-6101 or 800-396-5882.

• **Annual Arts and Crafts Festival**, May 30, Calhoun City. Free. Downtown square. Call Calhoun City CC, 628-6999.

• **Mississippi Arts Fair for the Handicapped**, June 2-4, Biloxi. People with developmental disabilities share in the performing arts. Free. Miss. Coast Coliseum. Call South Miss. Regional Center, 228-867-1311.

• **Mississippi Coast Coliseum Fair and**

**Expo**, June 3-14, Biloxi. Rides, concerts, special events, exhibits and more. Admission. Call Miss. Coast Coliseum, 228-888-8010 or 800-700-0371.

• **Delta Jubilee/Miss. State Championship Pork Barbecue Cooking Contest**, June 4-6, Clarksdale. Arts and crafts, bicycle ride, carnival, 5K run/walk, volleyball tournament, music. Hwy. 60 S. and Anderson Blvd. Call Jerry Ayles, 627-7317 or 800-626-3764.

• **Natchez Literary Celebration**, June 4-6, Natchez. Conference devoted to literature, history and culture. Theme is "The South: Its Land and Its Literature." Free. The Natchezicola Hotel. Call Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 446-1208 or 800-862-3259.

• **Indian Bayou Festival and B.B. King Homecoming**, June 5-6, Indianola. Blues great B.B. King and other musical acts to perform in outdoor concert. Fireworks, barbecue cookoff and concessions. Admission. Fletcher Park. Call Indianola CC, 887-4454.

• **Juneteenth Day Festival**, June 6, Louisville. Celebrates anniversary of Congressional act of 1862 that prohibited slavery. Food, gospel, jazz, games, more. Dean Park, noon - 5 p.m. Call Claudell Weaver, 773-9414, or Janice Hopkins, 773-7743.

• **Sacred Harp Singing**, June 6, Morton. Practice of traditional four-part harmonies sung a cappella. Free; 6-8:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church. Call 268-3635 or 939-1626. ■

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# Country Roads

may, 1998

## June 3—6: LITERARY CONFERENCE:

*The South: Its Land and its Literature*, Natchez, Miss.—All kinds of writers and writings about the South and its love affair with the land will be explored during the 1998 Natchez Literary Celebration. An Olympic award-winning event, the conference is led by writers and scholars famous in their own right. For four days they will reveal tantalizing details about the legacy of the land on the South's history, literature and culture. All events take place at the Natchez Eola Hotel. Don't miss the June issue of *Country Roads* for a complete schedule. Tickets are on sale now. (800) 862-3259. ♦

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# Opinion

The Natchez Democrat

## June brings welcome return of NLC

**W**hen May arrives, can the Natchez Literary Celebration be far behind?

Lots and lots of people are looking forward to June 3-6, 1998, when the ninth annual, Olympic Award-winning Celebration takes place at The Natchez Eola Hotel. Among these people are:

■ Joseph Blotner, author of "Faulkner: A Biography" and "Robert Penn Warren: A Biography." He recently wrote to the Celebration's co-chairmen: "The whole program is attractive and impressive. My wife and I look forward to being there."

Blotner, one of the foremost scholars in America, will speak at the Celebration's conclusion June 6 at 8 p.m.

■ Clifton Taulbert, author of "Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored" and "Eight Habits of the Heart." He called last week to say he was bringing his wife, Barbara, and six of their friends from Tulsa.

Taulbert, a previous Celebration speaker, said, "We love Natchez so much and talk about it so much we have to bring our friends so they can see it for themselves." He will speak June 5 at The First Presbyterian Church, following an 8 p.m. concert by the Natchez-Vidalia Community Band.

■ William F. Winter, former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Every time we hear from him, he says, "The Literary Celebration is the highlight of the year for Elise and me. We can't wait to come again." Winter has served as director of proceedings for the Celebration since the first one in 1990.

With the enthusiasm of these out-of-towners as well as that of another two dozen speakers, it's no wonder those of us who live in Natchez and are working hard on this year's conference are excited.

The number of people we're expecting is mounting up. The crowd this year will include connections from the Celebration's



Top of the Morning  
Carolyn Vance Smith

new, fourth sponsor. This year the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at The University of Mississippi is sponsoring the Celebration along with Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Natchez National Historical Park.

Ann Abadie, director of the Center, is co-chairman along with Jim Barnett of MDAH, Bob Dodson of NNHP and myself.

Dr. Abadie is bringing to the conference more than two dozen members of the Advisory Board for the Center. While in Natchez they will hold their quarterly meeting.

Other groups planning to attend are:

■ Members of the Board of Trustees of Copiah-Lincoln Community College

■ A large group of the most outstanding humanities division students and faculty members in Mississippi's colleges and universities

■ Members of the Advisory Board of Bookfriends of the University Press of Mississippi

■ Participants in Copiah-Lincoln's Elderhostel program

■ Members of the Mississippi Humanities Council

In fact, the Celebration owes a huge debt of gratitude to the MHC. This council has financially supported the Literary Celebration since its beginning, and without that funding, all the lectures and other events at The Natchez Eola Hotel could not be offered free of charge.

Because the Celebration is considered by

the MHC as one of its finest programs, this year's conference is attracting Esther Mackintosh, vice president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils in Virginia, as well as Barbara Carpenter, director of the MHC.

Also planning to attend is Ann Copland, a top aide to U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss). Cochran has consistently voted for funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, by which the MHC is funded.

Despite the support in numbers and in funding from those groups, the Natchez Literary Celebration takes place each year because Natchez and its wonderful, visionary people want it to.

This is evidenced over and over again when people generously give of their money, their talents, their time, their energy, their services. It is so rewarding to live in a community that is so giving, year after year.

Those of us who are putting the final touches on the Celebration want you to know how much we appreciate your help and your support.

So, today, mark your calendar: noon, Wednesday, June 3, through Saturday night, June 7, the Natchez Literary Celebration. Top-quality lectures on the theme, "The South: Its Land and Its Literature," are free or low-cost.

Also offered are a free movie and such low-cost events as a concert, tours of historic homes and other buildings, receptions, exhibits, meals and a seminar about historic gardens.

Tickets for these events are available by calling Natchez Box Office, 601-445-0353. For a free brochure listing all events and times, just call 601-446-1242.

In the meantime, get ready to celebrate a month from now - with books and book-lovers. See you at the Literary Celebration!

Carolyn Vance Smith is director of Mississippi/Arkansas Elderhostel and is co-chairman of the Natchez Literary Celebration.

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# UM center to co-sponsor Natchez literary festival

The Associated Press

OXFORD — The University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture will co-sponsor the award-winning Natchez Literary Celebration June 4-6, with Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service and the Natchez National Historical Park.

"It is with special pleasure that we co-sponsor this event," said center associate director Ann Abadie. "We have supported the celebration since its founding in 1990 and are honored to join the other sponsors in this important program."

The theme for the ninth annual Natchez Literary Celebration is "The South: Its Land and Its Literature." More than a dozen scholars, writers and lecturers will make presentations, including the eminent scholar and Faulkner biographer, Joseph Blotner. He will speak on the influence of land on the writings of Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren.

"Through the years, the celebration has drawn both local and national audiences and has provided thousands of people with a new and enriched understanding of our region's literary experience," Abadie said.

Joining Blotner are Clifton Taulbert, author of *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, to discuss

the Mississippi Delta; Courtney Parker, food editor of *The Clarion-Ledger*, to speak on regional foods; and Felder Rushing, columnist for *The Clarion-Ledger*, to talk about yard art and old-time gardens.

Parker, an award-winning food journalist, is the author of *How to Eat Like a Southerner and Live to Tell the Tale*. Rushing is the author of four books on Southern gardens, one of which, *Passalong Plants*, won a national award for the best gardening book in America in 1994.

In addition, literary scholars signed up for the program include Peggy W. Prenshaw, who will address Southern women writers; Sterling Plump, who will explore the blues and Mississippi writers; and Jerry Ward, who will discuss Mississippi autobiographical voices.

Also Ole Miss professor Dr. Colby Kullman will speak on the use of land in the dramas of Tennessee Williams. Patrick Samway will examine the influence of New Orleans on southern writers.

■  
For additional information about the celebration, contact the Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau at 1-800-647-6742 or the Ole Miss Center for the Study of Southern Culture at (601) 232-5993.

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## CALENDAR

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

■ **Jazz it up:** The New Seaboard Street Jazz Society will meet 2:30-5:30 p.m. in the Church Hill Room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jackson. Cost: \$15 for guest, free for members. Details: 938-2241.

■ **Alumni meet:** The Madison Rosenwald Home Scott School Alumni Association monthly meeting is at 5 p.m. at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Madison. Details: 922-7493 or 886-8889.

■ **Giving campaign:** Liberal Trinity Development Foundation, Inc. will hold their fourth annual Giving Campaign-Rally Day for the development of the Senior Citizens Complex at noon at Liberal Trinity Church of God in Christ, 725 W. Northside Drive, Jackson.

## MONDAY, JUNE 1

■ **AARP meeting:** The West Rankin Chapter of the AARP #3444 will meet at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center at Ridgeland United Methodist Church. Details: 939-2241.

■ **Girls basketball camp:** Mississippi College will host the Lady Cloves Basketball Day Camp 8 a.m.-noon today through Thursday in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the Clinton campus. This is for girls in grades 1-5. Details: 925-3253.

■ **Summer camps:** New Stage Theatre's Education Department will be offering a variety of summer camps and classes for kids from kindergarten through the 12th grade today through July 31. To register: 949-0142.

■ **At the movies:** New Stage Theatre's Monday Night at the Movies presents Rendezvous at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at 1100 Carlisle St., Jackson. Cost: \$5. Details: 939-1881 or 939-8811.

■ **Baseball camp:** Jackson Prep Summer Baseball Camp is 9 a.m.-noon today through Thursday at 3100 Lakeland Drive, Jackson. To register: 939-1881 or 939-8811.

■ **Yoga classes:** A Joyflow Yoga! — Focus on Stress Relief is 6-7:15 p.m. and Joyflow Yoga! — Focus on Fitness class is 7:15-8:45 p.m. today

through July 27 at Millsaps College in Jackson. The classes meet on Mondays. To register: 974-1130.

■ **Kids Kelleys:** Jackson State University is offering Kids Kelleys workshop and programs for children in grades K through 12 at 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. today through June 26 on campus. Registration deadline is 7-10 a.m. today. Details: 968-2238.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 2

■ **Softball camp:** East Central Community College Softball camp is 8:30-12:30 p.m. for ages 6-11 and 12:30-4:30 p.m. for ages 12-16 in December. Cost: \$40. Details: 1-877-GO-2-6000, ext. 310.

■ **Brothers and sisters:** A Sibling Class is 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at Methodist Healthcare, 8803 Ridgewood Road, Jackson. Free. To register: 376-2273.

■ **Snake I.D.:** The Mississippi State Venomous and Nonvenomous Snakes exhibit is 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 1111 N. Jefferson St., Jackson. Details: 354-7303.

■ **Cancer support:** St. Dominic Cancer Center Support Group will meet 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Education Room. Details: 364-3070.

■ **Southern heritage:** Sons of Confederate Veterans Lewy Rifles Camp #1740 of Brandon-Pearl monthly meeting is 7 p.m. at Western Sizzlin' in Flowood. Details: 936-9048.

■ **Line dancing:** Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department is offering line dancing lessons 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Ridgeland Recreation Center. Cost: \$5 per lesson. Lessons are every Tuesday in June. Details: 953-2011.

■ **NACAP execs meet:** The Jackson Branch NACAP executive committee will meet at 7 p.m. at 3021 Bailey Ave., Jackson. Details: 989-5613.

■ **Pumpkin signing:** Sterling Pumpkins will read from and sign his book Create with Snakes at 5-6 p.m. at Off Square Books, 160 Courthouse Square, Oxford. Details: 236-2262.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

■ **Retirement information:** FaineWebber is sponsoring a Metro Jackson Business Retirement Plan Symposium at 11:30 a.m. at River Hills Country Club, 3650 Ridgewood Road, Jackson.

Details: 956-3839.

■ **Literary celebration:** The sixth annual award winning Natchez Literary Celebration is at 11:30 a.m. today and 9 a.m. Thursday-Saturday in Natchez. Tickets, details: 445-0353 or 1-800-882-3259. Details: 445-1242.

■ **Gibbons sign:** Kaye Gibbons will read from and sign her book, *On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon*, 5-6 p.m. at Off Square Books, 160 Courthouse Square, Oxford. Details: 236-2262.

■ **Valuable information:** The Jackson State University interdisciplinary Alcohol/Drug Studies Center will present two valuable abuse workshops, "Addiction and Spirituality," 8:30 a.m.-noon in Suite 7-1 and "Substance Abuse and Disability," 1-3 p.m. in Suite 7-8. Both are at the JSU Universities Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson. Free. Details: 968-2250.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 4

■ **Here's help:** COPE (Cancer Outreach Provides Empathy), a support group for cancer patients, members of families and other interested person, will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Methodist Healthcare, 1850 Chadwick Drive, Jackson. Details: 376-2400.

■ **Good music:** The 20th annual Magnolia State Bluegrass Festival is at 7 p.m. today, 2 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday at the State Country Music Park in Wiggins. Featuring the Osborne Brothers, James Monroe & The Midnight Ramblers, Jimmy Martin & The Sunny Mountains Boys and The Sullivan Family. Tickets: \$9 Thursday, \$10 Friday, \$11 Saturday, \$25 for all three days. Details: 926-7281.

■ **Nature's way:** A breastfeeding class is being offered at 6:30 p.m. in the Doctor's Dining Room of Methodist Healthcare, 1850 Chadwick Drive, Jackson. To register: 376-2273.

■ **Be creative:** Mississippi College is offering a

Creative Writing class 6:30-8:30 p.m. today through July 2 in Clinton. The class meets every Thursday. Details: 929-3263.

■ **Music, music everywhere:** The eighth annual Oleout Festival is 5 p.m. midnight today and Friday, 4 p.m. midnight Saturday on the grounds of Tapelo Coliseum. It features the Commodores, John Kay and Steppenwolf, Gary Jenkins and Thundering Hearts, Algiers Brass Band, teen video/dance party, 5k walk, carnival, parade, basketball tournament, food and drinks. Admission: \$10 Thursday, \$15 Friday and Saturday, \$30 three day pass, under 12 free. Details: 1-800-267-3104, 641-6528.

■ **Divers meet:** Adventure Divers annual craft fish boil is 6:30-8 p.m. at the Iron Horse Grill in Jackson. Details: 925-8877.

■ **Se habla español?** Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is offering conversational spanish lessons 10-11 a.m. at the Ridgeland Recreation Center. Classes are held every Thursday in June. Free. Details: 853-2011.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 5

■ **B.B. King and guests:** The Indian Bayou Festival featuring the B.B. King Homecoming is 6 p.m. today and 9 a.m. Saturday in Indianola. Featuring: Billy Maquis, 24-7, B.B. King, Moonshiners and Bernie Anderson & The Others. Admission: \$5, children under 12 free. Details: 887-4454.

■ **Formal lecture:** The Alliance Française de Jackson will present a lecture *Le Tour de France — The French Bicycle Race* in English by Paul Fournel at 7:30 p.m. in the Academic Complex Recital Hall at Millsaps College in Jackson. Cost: \$8 general, \$5 for Alliance Française members, \$3 for students. Details: 974-1310 or 362-5751.

■ **Comedy show:** New Stage Theatre presents the Capital City Improv at 10 p.m. at 1100 Carlisle St., Jackson. \$3. Details: 949-3531.

■ **Masson signs:** Debbie Ann Masson will read from and sign her book *Midnight Magic* 5-6 p.m. at Off Square Books, 160 Courthouse Square, Oxford. Details: 234-9930.



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# Opinion

The Natchez Democrat

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

## Library event coincides with literary fest

A special open house will be held at the Judge George W. Armstrong Library on Saturday afternoon, June 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. in conjunction with the Natchez Literary Celebration.

The open house is sponsored by the Friends of the Armstrong Library and the Board of Trustees of the Armstrong Library. This is a time for the people of Natchez and surrounding areas to come to visit the library, to meet and converse with visitors to the Natchez area who have come to attend the Literary Celebration, and to honor one of our local authors as well.

Greg lies will be the guest of honor for the open house. He will be available to sign copies of his books so if you have a copy bring in along or plan to purchase a copy while you are here.

Greg has had great success as a fiction writer. His current three books were first published in hardback, and all have now been printed as paperbacks as well. These titles are "Spandus Phoenix" published in 1993; "Black Cross" published in 1995; and "Mortal Fear" published in 1997. It is exciting to see his books in newsstands in airports and in bookstores around the coun-



Top of the  
Morning  
Margaret Wesley

try. His fans are looking forward to book four due out this year.

The good news is that he has others in progress.

A second major feature of the open house will be a collection of early oil paintings of landscape scenes of the south. These paintings, part of the collection of Logan Sewell of Vidalia, depict the growth of land use in the early south. Most of our residents have never seen the paintings, so it will be a rare treat for us all. Mr. Sewell promises a variety of scenes will be available for this special viewing.

Also being featured at the open house will be the Scharff collection of early Natchez

prints.

The prints are on permanent loan to the library from the Natchez Historical Society. Normally housed in the genealogy/local history area, the prints will be on display around the library. The prints were collected by Col. Maurice R. Scharff.

Colonel Scharff was the son of Morris and Rosa Ross Scharff of Natchez. He was born in Natchez in 1888. He spent his youth in Natchez, attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and served as a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New York. The collection of prints and drawings depict Natchez and surrounding areas during the French regime, 1716-1763. Colonel Scharff made a gift of the prints to the Natchez Historical Society. He died in 1967.

Come visit your library and take part in a special event featuring the literature and landscapes of the south.

The food will be great and the company even better.

Come to enjoy the festivities at your local library on Saturday, June 6, 4 to 6 p.m.

Margaret Wesley is a board member of the Friends of the Library.

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## The 1998 Olympic Award-Winning Natchez Literary Celebration

Presents



### *"The South: Its Land and Its Literature"*

Free

**9 a.m.-4 p.m., June 4-6, 1998**

- \* Lectures at the Natchez Eola Hotel on the writings of Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Richard Wright, William Faulkner, Robert Penn Warren, John Barry, Felder Rushing, and others
- \* Movie, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," 8 p.m., June 4
- \* Daily book-signings and exhibits

### **Low Cost**

- \* Historic Gardens Seminar, June 3 - \$10
- \* Concert and Clifton Taulbert, June 5 - \$10
- \* Tours, meals, parties, June 3-6 - \$10 to \$50

*Deadline for tickets: June 2*

**For tickets call**

**601-445-0353 or 800-862-3259**



*Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History,  
Natchez National Historical Park and the  
University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of  
Southern Culture*

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# Opinion

Friday, May 29, 1998

The Natchez Democrat

## Writing the story of Natchez, again

**O**ur words will be remembered long after we have gone, and the writers from the land will keep them safe for the next generation.

Our words will be needed by others as they set out to understand the land and the life that was left to them.

Through the magic of literature, we continue to connect the past with the present and give hope for the future. When we celebrate the written word, we celebrate the great legacy of our common humanity.

And I know of no better place than Natchez, Miss., an incredible "Front Porch," to be reminded of our stories and the people whose lives created the stories.

I travel throughout the world in search of "Front Porches." Yet I always adjust my calendar to come back to Natchez in June to be immersed in the literature of the South, meet the wonderful people who now call this great Southern town, home... and be reminded of how a good "Front Porch" really looks.

Last year, my wife, Barbara, and I brought our teenage son to Natchez with us. He accompanied us to many of the lectures and readings. I wanted him to meet Will Campbell. I wanted him to see his dad talking with Shelby Foote. I wanted him to meet the great Southern American, Governor William Winter.

I wanted him to see the house that William Johnson built. I wanted him to



Top of the Morning

Clifton Taulbert

meet our friend, Bob Pully, at The Governor Holmes House Bed and Breakfast.

But more importantly, I wanted to plant within him the seeds that hopefully will grow into a love for literature and the people that give life and meaning to the words we write and read.

Our world changes, and literature records the changes of our lives.

For a few days in Natchez each June, we can walk under ancient canopied trees that shade houses from a different time. We can prepare our minds for the good meal of words that will be served by all the native and guest authors and artists who come to town to be part of this celebration of Southern literature, the life and customs of the people who lived on the land.

This June, we will look at the land and the tenacious hold that it has on those of us who call ourselves Southerners. The land is magical. It is spellbinding. The land is demanding. Yet, ownership is elusive.

We are but trustees, who for whatever time we have allotted, will be given the task of building our lives and stories upon the land. The storytellers change as do the stories, but the land like a giant "Front Porch" still remains, silent and accommodating, giving each generation of people the opportunity to tell its story.

Each Natchez Literary Celebration gives us the time and place to connect those stories and in so doing, discover our common humanity.

One of the great Southern books that I enjoy reading is the book that is written each time we gather in Natchez. From the moment we unload our cars, hear the laughing voice of Carolyn Vance Smith and say hello to the owners of the inns and hotels in Natchez, the writing starts.

Our laughter, our greetings, our shyness, our exuberance and our establishing of new and wonderful relations, all become part of the book of our Natchez Experience.

When we open up to the excitement of relationships new and old, the land is gratified, and we are welcomed to the accommodating "Front Porch" once again...with rocking chairs, enough for all.

*Clifton Taulbert is an author and lecturer. He will speak on "The Delta 'Turn Row' That Led to the World" at 8 p.m., Friday, June 5, at The First Presbyterian Church, Natchez. For \$10 tickets, call Natchez Box Office, 601-445-0353.*

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Natchez musicians taking part in the new orchestra include, from left, Alvin DeVries, playing the flute; Harold Rosen, playing the violin; Louis DeVries, conductor; Louis Gunning, playing the double bass; and Jim Bennett, playing the upright bass. The St. Joseph Orchestra will make its Natchez debut on Friday at 8 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

# Of literature and lyrics

## Special to The Democrat

The art of the written word will be graced with the sound of music from a 75-piece orchestra during the Ninth Annual Award-Winning Natchez Literary Celebration.

A relatively new group, the St. Joseph Orchestra, will perform Friday evening at 8 at the First Presbyterian Church in a program called, "Literary, Literature and Lyrics."

The evening also will feature a presentation by noted author/lecturer Clinton Tashner, who will be honored at a reception. Tashner's talk is, "The Delta - From Row that Led to the World." An exhibit of Rosen's Garden at Magnolia Vale from the Norman/Gandy Collection will be shown for the first time. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased until performance time.

"It is truly a special time to have the St. Joseph Orchestra choose the Natchez Literary Celebration as the occasion for its first concert in Natchez," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman.

The orchestra is made up of musicians - many of them current or former professionals - from a wide geographic area, including the Natchez area. The group was founded by Dr. Eugene E. Robbins, of St. Joseph, La., and includes performers from Vicksburg, Monroe, La., Natchez and other area communities.

"The St. Joseph Orchestra tries to provide an opportunity for musicians of all ages and abilities to rehearse and perform a wide variety of music, and not only orchestral music," said principal conductor Louis DeVries of Natchez.

DeVries' performance ranges from the patriotic, "The Star Spangled Banner" to the classical "Prelude from Symphony No. 5" by Beethoven with a few stops in between.

"We have recruited teachers, both from within and outside the orchestra to give music lessons to anyone who is interested in either learning to play an instrument or to sing," DeVries said.

"The enthusiastic community support we receive is proof that we are providing a welcome infusion of culture to the people of St. Joseph and the surrounding area."

DeVries said the orchestra had a special moment recently during a public performance May 4 in St. Joseph.

There were close to 1,000 concert-goers packed into the Davidson High School gym that evening. The 75-piece orchestra and soloists received the kind of rapt attention usually reserved for first-class artists." DeVries said, "I was watching the audience; nobody fidgeted or glanced at his watch. Nobody began edging toward the exits during the applause for the final number. I believe we could have played for another half hour and not lost a single member of our

## The song list

Here is a list of the songs the St. Joseph Orchestra will perform during Friday evening's concert at First Presbyterian Church:

- "Prelude from Symphony No. 5" by Beethoven
- "The Star Spangled Banner" by Key and Smith
- "Morning" by Grieg
- "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Grieg
- "Prelude for a Small Princess" by Ravel
- "March from Symphony No. 12" by Tchaikovsky
- "The Little Sleepers Tonight" by Welch, Parrell and Graham
- "Prelude from Symphony No. 94 in G" by Haydn
- "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" Arrangement by Gills
- "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" Arrangement by Berkow
- "Prelude from Symphony No. 5" by Beethoven

audience."

DeVries added, "I hope that our upcoming performance will do this, given the encouragement and commitment to support the arts we flourish, even in such an unlikely place as St. Joseph, Louisiana." DeVries said people who attend the concert would hear a full-orchestra sound, with most of the instruments associated with a performance in a much larger city.

Friday night's program is just one of the special

events planned during the four-day NLC, which begins Wednesday with a brunch at Elms Court, followed by a seminar about Natchez gardens, landscape and land use. Tickets are \$10 each.

That evening, a tour of the Natchez City Cemetery will be held followed by dinner at Weymouth Hall. Tickets are \$20 each.

Thursday features a formal reception ceremony at 9 a.m. at the Natchez Eliza House, followed by free lectures by noted writers and speakers from 9:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. At 8 p.m. will be a free showing of the movie, "Clara and the Hot Road," also at the Eliza House.

Friday's packed day includes five lectures from

9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. A new program this year features tours of three historic houses on Foster Mound Road, including Foster Mound itself, beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by an old-fashioned southern dinner on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College. Tickets for the package are \$50. The concert and Tashner's exhibit will begin at 8 p.m.

Saturday features lectures from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by a reception for local author Greg Lin at the Jolly George W. Armstrong Library and an exhibit of southern landscapes.

The NLC will conclude with the presentation of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards to Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford and nationally acclaimed writer Will Campbell, followed by a presentation by Dr. Joseph Blanton on the authors William Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren.

The program is free and open to the public. A reception for Campbell, Ford and Blanton will be held later in the evening at the Historic Natchez Foundation. Cost is \$10.

Throughout the NLC will be book-signings and opportunities to meet the authors and lecturers. All tickets with meals must be purchased by Tuesday.

To obtain tickets to one or more event, call the Natchez Box Office at 601-445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259, or write P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, Miss., 39120.

For more information, call 601-446-1242 or write P.O. Box 894, Natchez, Miss., 39120, or visit the web site: [www.23kbbk.com/natchez](http://www.23kbbk.com/natchez).

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## The 1998 Olympic Award-Winning Natchez Literary Celebration

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### *"The South: Its Land and Its Literature"*

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**9 a.m.-4 p.m., June 4-6, 1998**

- Lectures at the Natchez Eolia Hotel on the writings of Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Richard Wright, William Faulkner, Robert Penn Warren, John Barry, Felder Rushing, and others
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*Deadline for tickets: June 2*

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*Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History,  
Natchez National Historical Park and the  
University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of  
Southern Culture*



# Natchez Literary Celebration, city preparing for Thursday start

Related photo and schedule, B4.

Special to The Democrat

From Foster Mound Road to the Natchez Elite Hotel, from the Natchez City Cemetery to the First Presbyterian Church, preparations were being made Monday for the Ninth Annual Award-Winning Natchez Literary Celebration.

"This will be one of our more exciting and challenging celebrations to date," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman.

"We have expanded the celebration from three to four days - and we will have a full-orchestra concert in addition to all the great lectures, book-signings, tours, meals and other special events," Smith said. "There literally is something for everyone."

On Monday night, the St. Joseph Orchestra had one of its final rehearsals in preparation for Friday night's performance of songs at the First Presbyterian Church.

In the Foster Mound Road area, lawns were being mowed, yards tended and rooms painted to be ready for Friday's tour of three historic houses - Foster Mound, Mound Olive and Olive Mary - prior to a dinner on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College Friday evening.

Speakers and presentations were scheduled to arrive beginning today. A total of 19 lecturers are planning presentations ranging from historic Natchez gardens to the writings of William Faulkner.

All the lectures correspond to the NLC's theme this year, "The South: Its Land and Its Literature."

"The highlight of our celebration this year will be the

presentation of our annual Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to two distinguished authors who have Mississippi ties," Smith said.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford and nationally acclaimed writer Will Campbell will be in Natchez to receive the awards Saturday night. Previous recipients include Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, Willie Morris, Shelby Steele and Ellen Douglas. The awards ceremony, which is open to the public, will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Natchez Elite Hotel, followed by a lecture on authors William Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren by Dr. Joseph Blotner, professor of English literature at the University of Michigan.

Prior to the award ceremony a program, "Literature and Landscapes," will feature a reception for Natchez author

Greg Ben, who will sign books, and an exhibit of southern landscapes from the Schaff Collection and the Logan Sewell Collection. The program begins at 4 p.m. in the Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library with a wine ceremony set for 5 p.m.

"Our newest addition to the celebration is on Wednesday with a day full of programs with the theme, 'The Historic Natchez Landscape,'" Smith said.

A brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Elm Court kicks off the day, followed by a seminar "Studying the Historic Natchez Landscape: Up Close and Personal," at St. Theresa Hall of St. Mary Catholic Church. A tour of the Natchez City Cemetery and a dinner on the grounds of Weymouth Hall overlooking the Mississippi River will conclude the day.

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## NLC preparations 'all coming together'; some last-minute tickets still available

Special to The Democrat

Dozens of local men and women were working behind the scenes Tuesday to prepare for the first day of the Natchez Literary Collection.

In the meantime, lecturers were putting finishing touches on their presentations.

"It's all coming together," said Robert Dodson, representative of the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park, one of the three NLC sponsors. "There is an excitement that fills the air just before opening day. I could sense that feeling on Tuesday."

The Natchez Film Festival will be the central point for the celebration, although other events will be held throughout Natchez and Adams County.

"I have had the opportunity to read advance copies of some of the lectures and they're just marvelous," Dodson said. "I'm pleased to say that many of the events requiring tickets are nearly sold out. However, we still have tickets to some great programs."

For instance, individuals still have a chance to attend a private reception, Sunday night at 9:15 for the two Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award winners — Richard Ford and Will Campbell — and for Dr. Joseph Blum, professor of English literature at the University of Michigan. That reception includes book-signings and a special exhibit of early Adams County prepared by California State University, Northridge. Cost is \$10.

The public may attend the free program earlier Saturday evening at 8 during which Ford and Campbell will receive their awards and which Blum will lecture on authors Robert Penn Warren and William Faulkner.

Tickets still are available for a concert by the St. Joseph Orchestra (\$10) Friday evening at the First Presbyterian Church beginning at 8 in conjunction with a speech by lecturer and author Clifton Taulbert, who also will sign his books, and an exhibit of historic Natchez photographs from the Norman Gandy Collection. Also,

"We want to remind people they can come to a free movie, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," which is a wonderful film based on the drama by Tennessee Williams," Dodson said. The show will be at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Bolo.

"And, of course, we will have excellent lectures — all free — on the Bolo Thursday, Friday and Saturday also."

Today's events include a brunch at Elm Court, a concert on Natchez grounds at St. Thomas Hall of St. Mary Catholic Church, and a tour of the Natchez City Cemetery with a supper at Weymouth Hall. All require advance tickets.

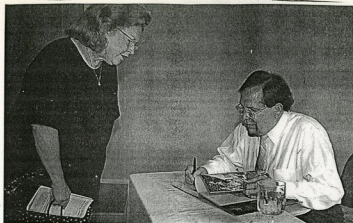
The NLC is cosponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture. For information or tickets, call the Natchez Box Office at 442-8153.



The Natchez National Historical Park

Nancy Holt, Wanda Holt and Clara Anley, all members of the Kingston Methodist Church, are helping prepare the supper for literary festival members which will be held Friday at Historic Jefferson College. In addition to the main and side dishes, the church women are preparing more than 20 different desserts for the Natchez Literary Collection event, which also serves as a fundraiser for the church.

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Jane Byrne of Natchez gets a book about gardens in Colonial Williamsburg, Va., signed by the author Gordon Chappell of Colonial Williamsburg during the Natchez Literary Festival Thursday at the Eola Hotel.

## Mayor Brown calls Literary Festival 'fantastic'

Special to The Democrat

The human face of the southern landscape was explored in depth during the opening day of the Ninth Annual Natchez Literary Celebration Thursday.

From the writings of southern women autobiographers to the courage of slaves to turn their meager huts into places where they could feel "free," lecturers explained that the South's character has been rich with adaptation.

The NLC continues today with more free lectures by literary scholars and a special talk by Clyde Ray Webber, clerk of court in Concordia Parish and well-known southern storyteller. Today's programs also include tours of historic houses at Foster Mound Road, a dinner on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College and an orchestral concert at First Presbyterian Church, followed by a talk by author/lecturer Clifton Taulbert and an exhibit. The latter program is \$10 and tickets still are available.

"This is a fantastic event for our community," said Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown in his opening welcome Thursday morning at the Natchez Eola Hotel, where most of the lectures are held.

Brown said the NLC is important for its contribution to the arts, education and culture of Natchez.

Six lectures followed the opening, with each presenter blending his or her own expertise with references to the southern landscape and literature.

For instance, Charles Reagan Wilson, professor of history and southern studies at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, extensively used the writings of W. J. Cash, the North Carolina journalist, in depicting the influence of the southern landscape.

"There was the unaccustomed freedom of the new country," Cash wrote, "the glad relief of escape from the European strait-jacket, the vague sense of bright, unlimited vistas opening upon the future. Despite the unquestionable harshness of the life he led, the Southern pioneer early began to exhibit a kind of mounting exultancy. Moreover, there was the influence of the Southern physical world — itself a sort of cosmic conspiracy against reality in favor of romance."

Wilson explained that the southerners, even the slaves, have claimed the land and their surroundings as theirs, providing each individual with a sense of place.

He said the plantation owner, sharecropper, Civil War soldier and officer, slave, civil rights worker, all have shaped the human southern landscape.

The structural relationship between the plantation owner and slave — that is, the way each reacted to his dwellings — was explored in depth by John Michael Vlach, chair, American Studies Program, George Washington University.

Vlach said the plantation owner used the immensity of his house not only as a way to provide him with comfort and space, but to send a physical message to the workers and slaves. In contrast, the shacks in which slaves lived reinforced their social position as property.

### Today's Schedule

- 9 a.m. "Time, Place, and a Landscape's Architecture," by Edward L. Blake Jr., landscape architect, Hattiesburg.
- 10:15 a.m. "Southern Gardens — A Melting Pot of Africa, Asia, and America: We are Getting Along," by Fielder Rushing, southern garden author and horticulture expert, Jackson.
- 11:15 a.m. Book-signing.
- 11:45 a.m. luncheon, The Carriage House Restaurant (\$15 ticket) with lecture, "A Visit to the Bone yard," by Clyde Ray Webber, humorist, Ferriday, La. (\$15).
- 1:30 p.m. "A Storied Land: Choctaw Place Names and the Emplotment of Land Use," by Dr. Patricia Galloway, special projects officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.
- 2:45 p.m. "Pork, Pone, and Pokes: Favorite Foods of the Southland," by Courtney Parker, of Natchez, food columnist, The Clarion-Ledger.
- 3:15 p.m. "Aches and Pains, Thrills and Chills: Symptoms of Land Fever at Foster Mound, Mississippi," by James L. Wiggins Jr., history instructor, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez.
- 3:45 p.m. Book-signing.
- 4:30-7:30 p.m. "Land Fever on Foster Mound Road," a guided tour to four historic sites: Foster Mound Plantation, Mount Olive, Glen Mary and Historic Jefferson College, with transportation, refreshments, and "Dinner on the Grounds," an old-fashioned meal, at Jefferson College. Tickets not available.
- 8 p.m. "Lyrics, Literature, and Lagniappe," First Presbyterian Church, 117 South Pearl St. (\$10-Tickets available until concert time), features the following:
  - \* A medley of songs by the St. Joseph Orchestra
  - \* "The Delta 'Turn Row' That Led to the World," a presentation by Clifton Taulbert, of Tulsa, Okla.
  - \* "Brown's Gardens: A Verdant Vile," an exhibit from the Norman/Gandy Collection of Historic Natchez photographs, Stratton Chapel Gallery
  - \* Reception and book-signing honoring Taulbert

For tickets, call 445-0353.

Yet, slaves' determination to be more than property, resulted in their turning even the humblest of dwellings into places that were theirs, Vlach said.

For instance, some slaves planted and sold cotton they grew in lots adjacent to their quarters; some made physical improvements; while others took pride in their huts' cleanliness.

The NLC continues through Saturday.

Tickets for tonight's concert by the St. Joseph Orchestra are \$10 and may be purchased until performance time by contacting the Natchez Box Office at 445-0353.

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# Natchez Literary Festival begins first day with crowds in Natchez

## Special to The Democrat

The warm Natchez temperatures didn't cool off the first day of the annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

Three sell-out events were held on Wednesday at various parts of the city.

The main program of the day was a seminar on the history – verbal and photographic – of the Natchez landscape by six speakers. Their topics correlated with the theme for this year's ninth celebration: "The South: Its Land and Its Literature."

On Wednesday, the development of the land in and around Natchez was explored in depth during the seminar, held at St. Theresa Hall of St. Mary Catholic Church.

In her presentation, titled, "The Landscape of 19th Century Natchez," Mimi Miller said, "In 1835, Joseph Holt Ingraham published a travel account of Natchez." Ingraham's account was widely read and it is the most comprehensive description written during the 19th Century. On coming up from Under-the-Hill into the city, Ingraham described the city:

"Natchez, mantled with rich green foliage like a garment, with its handsome structures and fine avenues ... lies immediately before me ..."

Flowery descriptions of Natchez weren't unusual in historical accounts, according to Miller, director of preservation and education for the Historic Natchez Foundation.

She said, "In 1704, a French carpenter, André Joseph Penicaut, visited Natchez and enthusiastically wrote: 'The village of the Natchez (Indians) is the most beautiful that could be found in Louisiana (territory). Around it are flower-adorned prairies, broken by little hills upon which there are thickets of all kinds of fragrant trees.'"

Earlier in the seminar, Dr. Elizabeth MacNeil Boggess, president of Archaeologists Unlimited, said early Natchez landscapes and gardens were a blend of several styles, predominantly Italian and French.

"They (property owners) could do anything they wanted to do," Boggess said.

Their presentations were part of a

seminar, which was added to the NLC's traditional three-day program. The lectures were preceded by a brunch at Elms Court. In the evening, the NLC hosted a tour of the Natchez City Cemetery – one of Natchez' most historic landscapes – and a supper at Weymouth Hall on Cemetery Road, overlooking the Mississippi River.

Today is the formal opening ceremonies with welcomes by former Gov. William F. Winter, Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown and Dr. Howell Garner, president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, one of the four NLC sponsors. Others are the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

Free lectures at the Natchez Eola Hotel are scheduled today from 9:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. with two book-signings. Tonight at 8, also at the Eola, is a free showing of the film, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Mom

French  
Enamelled  
Jewelry

Grade



Retro  
Clocks



Hardhats

Dad

Gifts

for the unique people in your life



Bri  
&  
Gra

Fundamental  
Golf

YOU

Stained  
Glass  
Sunflowers

## Calendar Highlight

June 3-6

# The Natchez Literary Celebration The South: Its Land and Its Literature



Keynote speakers at the Celebration include John Barry, author of *Rising Tide*, and Clifton Taulbert, who wrote *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*.

The ninth annual Natchez Literary Celebration is a four-day conference devoted to the literature, the history and the culture of the South. From vast cotton plantations to the lush tangle of kudzu and moss-draped swamps, from days shimmering in liquid heat to nights filled with earthy images flowing from a bluesman's guitar, images of the South always turn back to the land.

That overpowering sense of place has held Southern writers in its power for generations. Novelist William Faulkner created his own land and called it Yoknapatawpha County. Playwright Tennessee Williams set Big Daddy on a giant plantation, and the lyrics of Muddy Waters are stained with the red earth of his homeland. For centuries it has been thus.

All kinds of writers and writings about the South and its love affair with the land will be explored during the 1998 celebration. The Olympic award-winning conference is led by writers and scholars famous in their own right. For four days they will explore the legacy of the land in the South's history, literature and culture. Partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, the celebration presents an extensive series of lectures and related

events free of charge at the Natchez Esala Hotel. Enhancing the lecture series are low-cost events away from the hotel, such as a preconference seminar on historic gardens, tours of antebellum mansions, a film, a concert, book signings and festive social events.

Lectures and presentations on Thursday, June 4, include:

- *The Landscapes of Memory: Land and Culture in the American South*, by Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson
- *A Virginia Perspective of Colonial Gardens*, by Gordon W. Chappell
- *The Not-So-Sunny-South: Revisiting the Plantation Landscape*, by Dr. John Michael Vlach
- *Life Stories: Southern Women Writers and the Land of Memory*, by Dr. Peggy W. Prensler
- *A Dark, Wide World You Can Believe In: Tennessee Williams and the Land*, by Dr. W. Kenneth Holdich and Dr. Colby H. Kallman

On Friday, June 5:

- *Time, Place, and a Landscape's Architect*, by Edward L. Blake Jarvie
- *Southern Gardens: A Meeting Place of Africa, Asia and America. We ARE Getting Along*, by Mr. Felder Rushing
- *A Sacred Land: Choctaw Place Names and the Endowment of Land Use*, by Dr. Patricia Galloway
- *Pork, Pine and Pika: Fanciest Foods*

of the Southland, by Courtney Parker

- *Acting and Posing, Thelma and Chella: Symphonies of Land Fever at Foster Mount*, by James L. Wiggins Junior

And on Saturday, June 6:

- *The Landscapes and the Mindscapes: Influences of New Orleans on the Writers William Faulkner, Eugene Wiley, Walker Percy and George Washington Cable*, by Dr. Patrick Samway
- *The Mississippi and the Land*, by John Barry, author of *Rising Tide*
- *From the Mississippi Earth: The Autobiographical Voices of Hollis Watkins, Endreka Ila Mae Holland, Richard Wright and Anne Moody*, by Dr. Jerry W. Ward Junior
- *Blues Language in the Works of the Mississippi Writers Richard Wright, Muddy Waters and Sterling Plump*, by Sterling Plump, Chairman, Black Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, Chicago

Each day the lecture program is augmented by luncheons with featured speakers, tours, book signings, film showings, musical performances and a variety of other activities. Tickets for each event are available separately or as a package, with or without accommodation. For tickets call (800) 862-3259 or (601) 445-0353. For more information and a full schedule of events, call (601) 446-1242. ♦

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# Southern topics saturate Literary Celebration

## Special to The Democrat

The southern land — from its wealth to wars, from its roots to ruins, from magnetism to manipulation, from humor to humiliation, from dirt to delicacies — was the breadth of topics Friday during the third day of the Natchez Literary Celebration.

Homespun tales and moving stories were presented by a "local crop" of lecturers — all living and working in the Miss-Lou area, some in Natchez.

And on Saturday, about 250 people listened to nationally acclaimed lecturers and honored award-winning authors including the Rev. Patrick Swayze, literary editor of "America;" John Barry, author of "Rising Tide;" Jerry W. Ward Jr., professor of English at Tusculum College, and Sterling Plump, chairman of the Black Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle.

Speakers talked — sometimes lyrically and reverently — about the mighty Mississippi, the city of New Orleans and southern writers' being influenced by the land through which the river flows.

Two of those Mississippi-raised authors, Will Campbell and Richard Ford, both of whom are mountains on the South's literary landscape, were scheduled to receive the NLC's highest honor Saturday night, the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award.

The NLC is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the National Park Service's Natchez

National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

During Friday's program, humor slipped into the landscape — the theme of this year's NLC is "The South: Its Land and Its Literature" — from such notable presenters as Felder Rushing, garden author and horticulture expert from Jackson; Courtney Parker, cookbook author and columnist for The Clarion-Ledger; and Clyde Ray Webber, storyteller from Ferriday, and clerk of court in Concordia Parish.

Parker regaled in the southerner's love for grits, reading from a poem about grits by Roy Blount Jr., which, in part, read: "Give me two hands, give me my wits, give me 40 pounds of grits, grits at taps, grits at reveille, I am into grits real heavily."

Parker said she disliked grits at first, but eventually developed a fondness not only for the taste, but the intangible feeling they provided.

While Parker spoke fluidly about the southern cooking and land — and how southerners have both prospered and suffered with their earth — one speaker focused his talk on only one, relatively small plot of land. James Wiggins, Co-Lin Natchez history instructor, detailed

the trials and tribulations of the people who inhabited White Apple, where Foster Mound is located.

**"Give me two hands, give me my wits, give me 40 pounds of grits, grits at taps, grits at reveille, I am into grits real heavily."**

ROY BLOUNT JR.  
POET

Shortly after his talk, NLC goers toured three antebellum houses at a Foster Mound by the Smiths and Fosters and dined at Historic Jefferson College, which was built on land given by the Foster family.

Wiggins sewed nearly 300 years of transitions at White Apple together in a quilt with humanistic — and sometimes painful — qualities.

In what Wiggins called "one of the utterly saddest stories you will ever hear," he delved into the capture of Ibrahima, the prince of Futa Jalon, who was sold by his African enemies into slavery in the 18th Century. Ibrahima eventually wound up being bought by the Fosters and put to work at their plantation in the Foster Mound area.

Ibrahima was freed after a 22-year struggle by an Irish doctor — John Coates Cox — who happened to

pass through Washington one day and discovered Ibrahima, who just happened to be taking sweet potatoes to the local market.

It was Ibrahima's family that saved Cox' life when the doctor — decades earlier — lost his way in Africa. Even after gaining his freedom, Ibrahima never lived long enough to set foot back on his homeland.

Later Friday evening, the sadness of Ibrahima's story and the sumptuousness of the southern food about which Parker spoke, were translated into music by the St. Joseph Orchestra. Despite — and maybe excited by — howling winds and snapping lightning outside the First Presbyterian Church, the orchestra captured moods from the past into the sultry, from the light-hearted to the moody.

Their performance, the first in Natchez, warmed up a storm-anxious audience for a speech by Pulitzer Prize nominee Clifton Taulbert, who delivered a standing-ovation speech even after the power and lights were extinguished by the storm. His words slid seamlessly through his rural upbringing to his emotional challenge for individuals to join in making the nation better.

"No country will ever be better without the strength and character of all of us working together," said the Mississippi-raised Taulbert, who lives in Tulsa, Okla. And, he said, "Every single one of us is a book — a piece of literature. Every single one of us is a volume of literature — someone is reading us."

# Join the 'friends' in aiding cemetery

Natchez is an historic treasure. It abounds with beauty, history, fascinating lore of the past and a uniqueness that is all its own.

As a tourist attraction that grows in popularity yearly, it keeps offering more to bring and entertain visitors world-wide and year-round, judging by the numbers who daily visit the many places of interest.

One of the very popular attractions is the Natchez City Cemetery, recognized as one of the most beautiful in the South, an historic city landmark, which reflects the glorious and colorful past.

The famous and infamous, tragic, romantic and heroic personages repose in a setting of beauty enhanced by azaleas, majestic oaks, old-fashioned rose bushes that have been reintroduced in the cemetery, the



Top of the  
Morning  
Zeida Millstein

artistry of museum quality monuments and wrought iron fences, making it a unique final resting place. In an effort to perpetuate and assist in maintaining the loveliness of the cemetery, the Board of the Natchez City Cemetery Association is founding a "Friends of the Cemetery" support group to

the board, to aid in the cemetery's beautification and maintenance to continue to make it the popular tourist attraction that it is.

An organizational meeting of "Friends of the Cemetery" will be held Monday, June 22, at 4 p.m. in the Council Chambers, formerly Natchez First Federal, South Pearl St.

All those interested are cordially invited to attend. Mrs. Bee Byrnes will present a talk, "Bushes, Bones and Bios." If anyone would like to join this civic effort and make a contribution, please send it to Mrs. Chandler Jordan, Natchez City Cemetery Association president, 217 Linton Ave., Natchez, Miss., 39120.

*Zeida Millstein is a longtime volunteer with the Natchez City Cemetery and an organizing member of Friends of the Cemetery.*

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Monday, June 8, 1998

## OUR OPINION

# Start your week off with some good news

**G**ood morning and good Monday. As we begin another week of summer vacation – hopefully with better weather.

As we begin the week, we share some good news and good thoughts with you:

■ Congratulations, once again, to the organizers, volunteers and participants with the Natchez Literacy Celebration. Once again, the first-class festival filled our community with fascinating people and opportunities to learn for both locals and visitors.

The first Natchez performance of the St. Joseph (La.) Community Orchestra was a treat for everyone, and it was just one of many highlights in the festival.

■ The Deposit Guaranty National Bank Cancer Tournament went off without a hitch, despite an uninvited storm on Friday night. Kudos to the organizers and volunteers who made this event another feather in our recreation cap.

■ Thanks to the 17 percent of Adams County voters who actually cared enough to cast ballots in last week's Democratic and Republican primaries for the Fourth Congressional District.

■ Our hats off, too, to the local candidates – Joyce Arceneaux and Heath Hall – who cared enough about the district and its residents to toss their hats into the ring. Although neither won their party's nomination, both showed enough gumption and initiative to run for office.

■ And, finally, thanks to the government and utility officials whose recently-developed emergency plan was tested on Friday. The warning sirens went off – twice; the Entergy folks and police chief worked side-by-side; and we realized that we learned well from our February tornado.

Let's hope we don't have to test that plan again, though.

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# This year's Natchez Literary Celebration called 'colossal' by Ford

'It was like being on a riverboat; you came into one beautiful port after another'

## Special to The Democrat

"It was colossal" said Dr. Jonah Ford, of Magnolia, the independent evaluator hired to review the Ninth Annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

"It was like being on a riverboat; you came into one beautiful port after another," Ford said of all the programs and special events in this year's celebration, held last Wednesday through Saturday.

More than 1,000 individuals, both from in and out of town, attended the celebration, whose theme this year was: "The South: Its Land and Its Literature."

Ford, who attended his first NLC, said, "It was stunning from the first day, calling the opening seminar on historic

gardens and landscape is shower of diamonds."

Ford is expected to file a formal analysis with the Mississippi Humanities Council, which partially financed the celebration.

The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

He also praised the community for its hospitality, vitality and architectural beauty.

Two individuals deserve special credit, Ford said, referring to Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman, and former Gov. William F. Winter, master of ceremonies for every celebration so far.

Ford called Smith a master organizer and the city of Natchez a terrific host.

He said Winter craftily knit together the varied individuals and programs.

Ford added, "The celebration had great moments," calling

it "a festival and a feast."

U.S. District Judge David C. Bramlette of Woodville, who attends the NLC annually, said, "This year's Natchez Literary Celebration was a wellspring of information on a variety of subjects from Tennessee Williams to the influence of original plants in our flower gardens."

Bramlette added, "The celebration was particularly enjoyable for me because it involved the South, its land and its literature in a very well presented series of lectures. It was a wonderful balance and a wonderful mix of subjects."

"Hopefully next year more local people will take advantage of this rare opportunity."

Anne Maids, of Boston, who attended the NLC with others through the national Elderhostel program, said "The Natchez Literary Celebration was just wonderful. As a northerner coming to the warm hospitality of the South, I obtained a rich insight into the region's culture."

"I was impressed with the focus Mississippi puts on its writers and its literature. We don't do that in the North, and we should."

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# Opinion

The Natchez Democrat

Monday, July 6, 1998

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Literary Celebration enjoys another success**

Again this year, we at the Natchez Literary Celebration rejoice over how well the conference accomplished its goals of gathering people together from all over the country to enjoy each other while learning from the nation's top scholars and writers. This year's conference, which took place June 3-6 with the theme "The South: Its Land and Its Literature," was universally praised.

Words like "colossal," "world class," "fantastic," "incredible," "terrific," and "extremely educational" punctuate the evaluations we are receiving about this year's conference.

Indeed, the four days were highly educational, as well as humorous, serious, thoughtprovoking, and uplifting. The conference was filled with magnificent presentations, enhanced by related tours, exhibits, receptions, a film, meals, and entertainments.

None of this could have taken place without the help of many, many wonderful people, including you. Thank you so very much for all you did to make this year's Literary Celebration such a success.

My co-chairmen, Jim Barnett of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Bob Dodson of the Natchez National Historical Park, and Ann Abadie of The University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture, join me in telling you how deeply grateful we are.

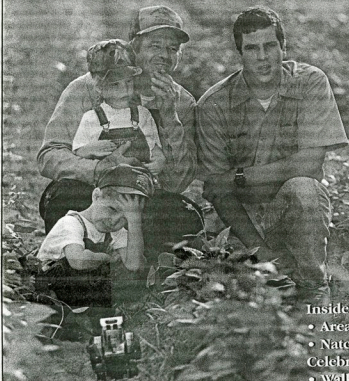
We look forward to the 10th annual Natchez Literary Celebration, June 3-5, 1999. We hope you will once more be a part of this internationally significant event.

*Carolyn Vance Smith  
Co-chairman, NLC*

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# R • On the River

June 1998



**Inside:**

- Area Events
- Natchez Literary Celebration
- Walking tour

*A publication of The Natchez Democrat*

Endorsed by the Natchez Convention & Visitors Bureau, Natchez Pilgrimage Tours and The Natchez Chamber of Commerce

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# Natchez Literary Celebration explores Southern culture

## Special to The Democrat

From music to meals, lectures to tours, the Ninth Annual Award-Winning Natchez Literary Celebration has something for everyone.

The celebration, June 3 through 6, is a potpourri of events centered on the theme: "The South in Land and Literature."

"We have wonderful speakers, some of whom have lectured at previous celebrations and others who are joining us for the first time," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman.

The NLC is co-sponsored by Capital-Lincoln Community

College, the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

For tickets, call the Natchez Box Office at 601-445-6153 or 1-800-862-5258, or write P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39070.

For more information, call 601-445-1242 or write P.O. Box 894, Natchez, MS 39070, or visit the web site: [www.2theticket.com/nlc](http://www.2theticket.com/nlc).

Kick-off is Wednesday, June 3, with a brunch at Historic Elm Court on John B. Jackson Drive

from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tickets: \$10 (purchased by June 1). Following the meal, will be a series of lectures on southern gardens to be held at St. Theresa Hall of St. Mary Catholic Church. The 1:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. program is \$10 and includes an old-fashioned hot cream social in Memorial Park. Later, a guided tour of the Natchez City Cemetery followed by supper at Weymouth Hall will be offered. Tickets: \$20 (must be purchased by June 1).

Former Gov. William F. Winter will open the NLC on Thursday, June 4, at the Natchez Eola Hotel, where most of the lectures will be

free to the public. Speakers include Gordon W. Chappell, director of landscape and facilities at Colonial Williamsburg; W. Kenneth Huddell, professor of English emeritus at the University of New Orleans; and Colby H. Kallman, professor of English at the University of Mississippi.

At 8 p.m. will be a free showing of the movie, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at the Eola Hotel.

Friday's programs include lectures by Felber Rushing, author and horticulture expert; James Wiggins, history instructor at Co-Lin; and Courtney Parker, food columnist.

Storyteller Clyde Ray Webster of Fenwick, La., will talk at a lunch at the Carriage House Restaurant. Tickets: \$15 (must be purchased by June 1).

Tours of historic houses at Foster Mound Road and Jefferson College are free that evening, followed by dinner on the grounds of the former military school. Tickets: \$50 (must be purchased by June 1).

The NLC concludes Saturday with lectures featuring John Barry, author of *Rising Tide*; Dr. Patrick Ramsey, literary editor, *America*; and Dr. Jerry Ward, Daigun Professor of English at Tusculum College. No charge.

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

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1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
 "The South: Its Land and its Literature"

"LAND FEVER ON FOSTER MOUND ROAD" – \$50

A Tour of Foster Mound, Mount Olive,  
 Glen Mary, and Jefferson College with  
 DINNER ON THE GROUNDS at Jefferson College  
 (Round-trip transportation from Eola Hotel)  
 4:30–7:30 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 5



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1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
 "The South: Its Land and its Literature"

"LYRICS, LITERATURE, AND LAGNIAPPE" – \$10  
 Concert, Talk by CLIFTON TAILBERT, Exhibit, and Reception  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 8:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 5



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1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
 "The South: Its Land and its Literature"

"LUNCH WITH THE LITERARY LIONS"

Luncheon at Historic Cherokee Honoring Conference Speakers  
 Hosted by Bookfriends of the University Press of Mississippi  
 12 noon, SATURDAY, JUNE 6  
 \$15 per current Bookfriends member  
 \$50 per new member; \$65 per two new members



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1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
 "The South: Its Land and its Literature"

"LET'S CELEBRATE WITH THE LITERARY GIANTS" – \$10  
 A Gala Reception and Booksigning  
 Honoring Joseph Blotner, Will Campbell, and Richard Ford  
 Historic Natchez Foundation  
 Hosted by Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture  
 9:15 p.m., SATURDAY, JUNE 6  
 (This ticket is redeemable for two beverages.)

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1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
"The South: Its Land and its Literature"

"GARDENS AND GALLERIES" – \$10  
A Pre-Conference Brunch at Historic Elms Court  
11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3



1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
"The South: Its Land and its Literature"

"OVERLOOKING THE LANDSCAPE" – \$20  
A Natchez City Cemetery Tour with  
Refreshments and Supper at Historic Weymouth Hall  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3  
(Shuttle transportation to and from Eola Hotel)



1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
"The South: Its Land and its Literature"

"STUDYING THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE:  
UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL" – \$10  
A Pre-Conference Seminar at St. Mary Catholic Church  
1:30 - 5:30 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3



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1998 Natchez Literary Celebration  
"The South: Its Land and its Literature"

LUNCHEON at the Carriage House at Stanton Hall  
with "A VISIT TO THE BONEYARD"  
by CLYDE RAY WEBBER – \$15  
11:45 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 5

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## Saturday, June 6, 1998

9 a.m. "The Landscape and the Mindscape: Influences of New Orleans on the Writers



Samway



Harrison

William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Walker Percy, and George Washington Cable," by Patrick Samway, S.J., Literary Editor, *America*, New York; Introduced by Alferdteen Harrison, Professor of History, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

10 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m. "The Mississippi and the Land," by John Barry, Author of *Rising Tide*, New Orleans



Barry



Stribling

and Washington, D.C.; Introduced by James H. Stribling, President, Board of Trustees, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Brookhaven, Mississippi

11:30 a.m. Booksigning Honoring Morning Lecturers

12 p.m. "Lunch with the Literary Lions" Honoring Conference Authors, at the

Mansion Cherokee, Hosted by Bookfriends of the University Press of Mississippi (\$15 Ticket for Current Member of Bookfriends; \$50 Ticket for One New Member; \$65 Ticket for Two New Members)

1:30 p.m. "From the Mississippi Earth: The Autobiographical Voices of Hollis Watkins,



Ward



Plumpp



Carpenter

Endesha Ida Mae Holland, Richard Wright, and Anne Moody," by Jerry W. Ward Jr., Durgin Professor of English, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi

and

"Blues Language in the Works of the Mississippi Writers Richard Wright, Muddy Waters, and Sterling Plumpp," by Sterling D. Plumpp, Chairman, Black Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, Chicago; Introduced by Barbara Carpenter, Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, Jackson

3 p.m. Booksigning Honoring Afternoon Lecturers

4-6 p.m. "Literature and Landscapes," Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library, 220 South Commerce Street, Hosted by the Armstrong Library Board and Friends of the Library



Iles



Ethridge

\* Reception and Booksigning Honoring Greg Iles, Prize-winning Author of *Mortal Fear*, Natchez; Introduced by Robbie Ethridge, McMullan Assistant Professor of Southern Studies and Assistant Professor of Anthropology, The University of Mississippi, Oxford

\* Exhibit of Southern Landscapes from the Scharff Collection and the Logan Sewell Collection

8 p.m. "Literary Giants: An Evening to Remember"



Sansing



Campbell



Ford



Blotner

\* "And the Winners Are..." The Presentation by David G. Sansing, Professor of History Emeritus, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, of the Fifth Annual Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards to Prize-winning,

Mississippi-born Writers Will Campbell, Author of *Providence*, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, and Richard Ford, Author of *Independence Day*, New Orleans (Awards are funded by Natchez Newspapers Inc.)

\* "The American Land and American Writers: Robert Penn Warren and William Faulkner," a Lecture by Joseph Blotner, Professor of English Emeritus, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

9:15 p.m. "Let's Celebrate with the Literary Giants," Historic Natchez Foundation, 108 South Commerce Street, Hosted by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture (\$10 Ticket)

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\* "Legal Landscapes: Art of the Natchez Surveyor," an Exhibit of Early Adams County Properties Prepared by California State University, Northridge

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# South Its Land and Its L

Hotel unless otherwise noted. Since the conference is partially funded by the Mississippi

## Natchez Literary Celebration Conference Agenda

Thursday, June 4, 1998

9 a.m. Welcome and Introductions by **Howell C. Garner**, President, Copiah-Lincoln



Garner



Brown

Community College, Wesson, Mississippi; **Larry L. "Butch" Brown**, Mayor of the City of Natchez; and **William F. Winter**, President, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Director of Proceedings for the Celebration, Jackson, Mississippi

9:15 a.m. "The Landscapes of Memory: Land and Culture in the American South," by



Wilson



Ray

**Charles Reagan Wilson**, Professor of History and Southern Studies and Director of the Southern Studies Program, The Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, Oxford; Introduced by **Olon Ray**, Executive Director, Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, Jackson

10:15 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m. "A Virginia Perspective of Colonial Gardens," by **Gordon W. Chappell**,



Chappell

Director of Landscape and Facilities, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia; Introduced by **Ann J. Abadie**, Acting Director, The Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, Oxford

11:30 a.m. Booksigning Honoring Morning Lecturers, Followed by Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. "The Not-So-Sunny South: Re-visiting the Plantation Landscape," by **John Michael**



Vlach



Spell

**Vlach**, Chair, American Studies Program, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; Introduced by **Lester Spell**, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture, Jackson

2:30 p.m. Refreshment Break

2:45 p.m. "Life Stories: Southern Women Writers and the Land of Memory," by **Peggy W.**



Prenshaw



Holditch



Kullman



Guice

**Prenshaw**, Fred C. Frey Professor of Southern Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; and "A Dark, Wide World You Can Breathe In": Tennessee Williams and the Land," by **W. Kenneth Holditch**, Professor of English Emeritus, The University of New Orleans, and **Colby H. Kullman**,

Professor of English, The University of Mississippi, Oxford; Introduced by **John D.W. Guice**, Professor of History, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

4:45 p.m. Booksigning Honoring Afternoon Lecturers, Followed by Dinner Break



Nettles

8:00 p.m. "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," A Showing of the Award-Winning Film Based on the Drama by Tennessee Williams; Introduced by **Ronald Nettles**, Dean, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez



# iterature

Humanities Council, most presentations are free.

## Friday, June 5, 1998

9 a.m. "Time, Place, and a Landscape's Architecture," by **Edward L. Blake Jr.**,



Blake



Bristow

Landscape Architect, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Introduced by **Clinton Bristow**, President, Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi

10 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:15 a.m. "Southern Gardens -- A Melting Pot of Africa, Asia, and America: We ARE Getting Along," by **Felder Rushing**, Southern Garden Author and Horticulture Expert, Jackson, Mississippi; Introduced by **Virginia Salmon**, Vice President, Adams County Board of Supervisors, Natchez



Rushing



Salmon

11:15 a.m. Booksigning Honoring Morning Lecturers

11:45 a.m. Luncheon, The Carriage House Restaurant on the Grounds of Stanton Hall (\$15 Ticket)



Webber

"A Visit to the Boneyard," by **Clyde Ray Webber**, Southern Humorist, Ferriday, Louisiana; Introduced by **James F. Barnett Jr.**, Director, Division of Historic Properties, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez

1:30 p.m. "A Storied Land: Choctaw Place Names and the Emplotment of Land Use," by **Patricia Galloway**, Special Projects Officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson; Introduced by **Elbert Hilliard**, Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson



Galloway



Hilliard

2:30 p.m. Refreshment Break

2:45 p.m. "Pork, Pone, and Poke: Favorite Foods of the Southland," by **Courtney Parker**, Food Columnist, *The* (Jackson, Mississippi) *Clarion-Ledger*, Natchez; and "Aches and Pains, Thrills and Chills: Symptoms of Land Fever at Foster Mound, Mississippi," by **James L. Wiggins Jr.**, Instructor of History, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez; Introduced by **Robert Dodson**, Superintendent, Natchez National Historical Park



Parker



Wiggins

3:45 p.m. Booksigning Honoring Afternoon Lecturers

4:30-7:30 p.m. "Land Fever on Foster Mound Road," a Guided Tour to Four Historic Sites: **Foster Mound**, **Mount Olive**, **Glen Mary**, and **Historic Jefferson College**, with Transportation, Refreshments, and Old-Fashioned "Dinner on the Grounds" at Jefferson College (\$50 Ticket)

8:00 p.m. "Lyrics, Literature, and Lagniappe," First Presbyterian Church, 117 South Pearl Street (\$10 Ticket)



Taulbert

- \* "The Southland's Favorite Music," a Concert by the **St. Joseph Community Orchestra**
- \* "The Delta 'Turn Row' That Led to the World," a Presentation by **Clifton Taulbert**, Author of *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, Tulsa
- \* "Brown's Gardens: A Verdant Vale," An Exhibit from the Norman/Gandy Collection of Historic Natchez Photographs, Stratton Chapel Gallery
- \* Reception and Booksigning Honoring **Clifton Taulbert**

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## Saturday, June 6, 1998

9 a.m. "The Landscape and the Mindscape: Influences of New Orleans on the Writers



Samway



Harrison

William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Walker Percy, and George Washington Cable," by Patrick Samway, S.J., Literary Editor, *America*, New York; Introduced by Alferdeen Harrison, Professor of History, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

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Plumpp



Carpenter

Endesha Ida Mac Holland, Richard Wright, and Anne Moody," by Jerry W. Ward Jr., Durgin Professor of English, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi

and

"Blues Language in the Works of the Mississippi Writers Richard Wright, Muddy Waters, and Sterling Plummpp," by Sterling D. Plummpp, Chairman, Black Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, Chicago; Introduced by Barbara Carpenter, Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, Jackson

3 p.m. Booksigning Honoring Afternoon Lecturers

4-6 p.m. "Literature and Landscapes," Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library, 220 South Commerce Street, Hosted by the Armstrong Library Board and Friends of the Library



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\* "Legal Landscapes: Art of the Natchez Surveyor," an Exhibit of Early Adams County Properties Prepared by California State University, Northridge

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# LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>  
4-6 p.m.

(in connection with the Natchez Literary Celebration)

Autograph party for local author-  
**Greg Iles**

(books will be available for purchase)

(short discussion of Greg Iles' contribution to literature  
at 5 p.m. by Dr. Robbie Ethridge of Ole Miss)

Display of landscape paintings of early  
southern sites from the collection of  
**Logan Sewell**

Display of the early Natchez prints of the  
**Scharff Collection**

All free

**Come visit the library**

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Armstrong Library  
and the Board of Trustees of the Armstrong Library)

May 1998

Dear Members of the Friends of Armstrong Library,

A special open house will be held at the Judge George W. Armstrong Library on Saturday afternoon, June 6, from 4-6 p.m. in conjunction with the Natchez Literary Celebration. The open house is sponsored by the Friends of the Armstrong Library and the Board of Trustees of the Armstrong Library. This is a time for the people of Natchez and surrounding areas to come to visit the library, to meet and converse with visitors to the Natchez area who have come to attend the Literary Celebration, and to honor one of our local authors as well.

Greg Iles will be the guest of honor for the open house. He will be available to sign copies of his books so if you have a copy bring it along or plan to purchase a copy while you are here. Greg has had great success as a fiction writer. His current three books were first published in hardback and all have now been printed as paperbacks as well. These titles are SPANDAU PHOENIX published in 1993; BLACK CROSS published in 1995; and MORTAL FEAR, published in 1997. It is exciting to see his books in newsstands in airports and in bookstores around the country. His fans are looking forward to book four due out this year. The good news is that he has others in progress.

A second major feature of the open house will be a collection of early oil paintings of landscape scenes of the south. These paintings, part of the collection of Logan Sewell of Vidalia, depict the growth of land use in the early south. Most of our residents have never seen the paintings so it will be a rare treat for us all. Mr. Sewell promises a variety of scenes will be available for this special viewing.

Also being featured at the open house will be the Scharff collection of early Natchez prints. The prints are on permanent loan to the library from the Natchez Historical Society. Normally housed in the genealogy/local history area, the prints will be on display around the library. The prints were collected by Col. Maurice R. Scharff. Colonel Scharff was the son of Morris and Rosa Roos Scharff of Natchez. He was born in Natchez in 1888. He spent his youth in Natchez, attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and served as a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New York. The collection of prints and drawings depict Natchez and surrounding areas during the French regime, 1716-1763. Colonel Scharff made a gift of the prints to the Natchez Historical Society. He died in 1967.

Come visit your library and take part in a special event featuring the literature and landscapes of the south. The food will be great and the company even better. Come to enjoy the festivities at your local library on Saturday, June 6, 1998, 4-6 p.m.

Please come and show your support as a Friend of the Armstrong Library.

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The Daily Democrat  
Natchez, Mississippi  
September 3, 1895

**STANTON COLLEGE**  
FOR YOUNG LADIES  
NATCHEZ, MISS.

Miss M. L. Prince, Principal  
Reopens Sept. 23, 1895

A complete, modern and perfectly equipped institution for the thorough education of girls in all departments, from the Kindergarten to the Collegiate. Special attention given to Physical Culture, Art and Music. Buildings ample in size and perfectly adapted to their purpose. Every sanitary requirement met. This institution has passed the experimental stage, and offers to parents in this section every advantage for their daughters, combined with reasonable cost and without the necessity of sending them to distant cities. The Faculty is of the highest possible character complete in every department, and the curriculum adapted to any sphere in life. Students not connected with the college will be admitted to any of the classes. Boys under 12 will be admitted as day pupils. Catalogue and full information can be obtained by addressing the principal.

\*NOW and THEN 1996

The Daily Democrat  
September 3, 1893

*Death of*  
*Mrs. Kulla L. Stanton*

It is with deep and unfeigned regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Kulla L. Stanton, one of our oldest and most highly esteemed of the lady residents of Natchez, which occurred at her home at half past three o'clock yesterday morning. Some days ago the deceased had a stroke of apoplexy, which was followed with paralysis, she grew constantly worse all yesterday morning when her gentle spirit winged its flight to the bright shores of the other world. Mrs. Stanton was born near Vicksburg, in Woodford, Ky., on February 9th, 1832 and was consequently in the eighty-seventh year of her age. Her maiden name was Kibler, and she was a sister of Hon. Thomas C. Kibler of Jackson, Miss. who we regret to say is quite ill. Her husband was the late Mr. Frederick Stanton, who before the war was a very extensive cotton merchant, and had his warehouse where "The Natchez" hotel now stands. For over six years Mrs. Stanton had been a resident of our city, and during all those long years she has ever been noted for her goodness of heart and extended charities. Having lived far beyond the allotted span of human existence, she was like a ripe sheaf awaiting the garner, and when the summons came she was ready to answer the call of her Maker full of the confidence inspired by Christian hope and belief that she was to receive her just reward for her deeds of goodness in this world, and for the pure, noble Christian life that she ever led. Mrs. Stanton leaves three children, Mrs. Gusten, Mrs. John Rouse and Mr. Fred Stanton, besides several grandchildren and great grandchildren to mourn her loss, and in their bereavement they will have the sympathy and condolence of all in the community.

The funeral will take place from Trinity Church at five o'clock this (Sunday) afternoon, and all friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

\*NOW and THEN 1997

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The South is renowned for her musical heritage, having birthed many styles of music. Stereotypically associated with blues and jazz, we often forget that the South also has a strong heritage and cultural appreciation of serious classical music. Therefore, our program tonight will be "eclectic" with most of the selections being classical. We cannot ignore the "jazz of the South;" therefore, we have included "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" which will have both religious and jazz flavors. After the program was printed, we have chosen to include a selection ("Moon Glow"-- Hudson, Delange, and Mills) by "The Jazzers", the jazz ensemble of the Orchestra. This will be just before the final selection.

Tonight's players represent the traditional Southern love of music. They have come together, young and old, experienced and beginners, with one common thread . . . their LOVE of music! The Orchestra, birthed in the small town of St. Joseph, LA, population 1386, has grown from those individuals yearning to "get back into" or to "begin learning" music . . . this coming from an area where there has been no music in the schools for approximately 20 years. Already, various ensembles have emerged from the Orchestra as well as a blossoming music studio where instruction in all the orchestral instruments is available to area residents.

## THE SAINT JOSEPH ORCHESTRA

Eugenia E. Robbins, Executive/Music Director  
LOUIS DEVRIES, CONDUCTOR

Presents for the  
Natchez Literary Guild  
Natchez, Mississippi

June 5, 1998 at 8:00 P.M., First Presbyterian Church

### "A SOUTHERN MUSICAL EVENING"

"The Star-Spangled Banner".....	Francis Scott Key/Steven L. Rosenhaus
Orchestra	
"Morning" (From Peer Gynt Suite No. 1).....	Edvard Grieg
Orchestra	
"In The Hall of The Mountain King" (From Peer Gynt Suite No. 1).....	Edvard Grieg
Orchestra	
"Pavane for a Dead Princess".....	Maurice Ravel/Owen Goldsmith
Orchestra	
"March" (From Symphony No. 2).....	Tchaikovsky
Orchestra	
"The Lion Sleeps Tonight".....	Weiss, Peretti, Creatore
Orchestra	
Symphony #94 in G - "Surprise".....	Franz Joseph Haydn
Strings	
"Just a Closer Walk With Thee".....	Arr: Don Gillis
Winds/Percussion	
"Somewhere Over the Rainbow".....	Arr: Carson Rothrock
Orchestra	
"Finale" (From Symphony No. 5).....	Ludwig van Beethoven
Orchestra	

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**THE NATCHEZ ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION  
OF AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURE**

307- A Market Street  
Natchez, MS 39120  
Phone (601) 445-0728

May 27, 1998

Dear Board Member:

At our last Board meeting, we committed to several engagements. The following is a list of events as a reminder of those commitments. Please mark these dates on your calendar and make plans to participate.

1. Clean-up of the Old Post Office building, Monday, June 1, 9:00 a. m.  
Each member is asked to join and enlist others to join this effort.
2. NAPAC's monthly Board meeting at the Museum, June 1, 5:30 p.m.  
Your presence is requested at this meeting.
3. Literary Celebration Reception, Historic Natchez Foundation, June 6, 9:15 p.m. All Board members are asked to serve as hosts and hostesses at the reception.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Sincerely yours,



Juanita Jones  
Secretary

# GUEDON FARMS

*FAMILY FARMING SINCE 1861...*  
IN SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI  
AND EAST CENTRAL LOUISIANA

## *A Brief History*

From 1861 until today, Guedon Farms has been a family affair, starting with Emile Guedon, a Frenchman who settled in Tensas Parish near Rodney, Mississippi, north of Natchez on the river. He arrived with nothing, but he soon acquired a mule and a plow. The earth was rich, and his will was strong.

Since that time, despite the Civil War and other devastating wars, a great economic depression, and the advancement of powerful technology, Guedon Farms is still a family business.

Today, three brothers, Emile, Arch, and Bob Guedon, are fourth-generation descendants of their pioneer forefather. They still live in Jefferson County and together head a business that involves or has involved their great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, wives, sons, daughters, grandchildren, and their in-laws.

They follow tradition in many ways, yet welcome change when situations demand it. Some of the changes include:

- \* Replacing yesterday's mule and plow with six of today's 300 HP John Deere tractors.
- \* Picking cotton not by hand, but with four 9965 John Deere cotton pickers, which pick five rows at a time at approximately five miles per hour.
- \* Using six John Deere combines, cutting ten rows at a time.
- \* Using huge cultivators, discs, and other heavy equipment to work the soil in preparation for planting and harvesting.

About the photograph: Arch Guedon surveys a field of butterbeans with his son Noble Guedon, and his grandchildren, Michael and Maggie Kay, children of Mike and Sue Guedon Kay. Photo courtesy of The Natchez Democrat/Laura Skilling.

## A Few Facts About Guedon Farms, 1998

- \* Number of acres farmed:  
9,500 in Adams County, Claiborne County, Jefferson County, and Warren County, Mississippi, and in Tensas Parish, Louisiana.
- \* Crops currently farmed:  
4,000 acres of cotton  
4,000 acres of soybeans  
500 acres of corn  
1 bay (614 plants) of greenhouse tomatoes  
1,000 acres of butterbeans, peas, and sweet potatoes  
(through a family business, Church Hill Produce)
- \* Crops farmed in the past:  
Grapes  
Cabbage  
Watermelon  
Spinach  
String beans  
Squash  
Wheat
- \* Number of employees:  
10 full time  
50: seasonally
- \* Markets served:  
Fresh vegetables: Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas  
Sweet potatoes: Brokered and sold nationwide  
Cotton, soybeans, corn: Brokered and sold worldwide
- \* Besides farming, other uses of the land:  
Hunting (deer, dove, ducks, coons, rabbits, turkeys and squirrels)  
Fishing, Camping, Hiking, Horseback Riding

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## Beauvoir Opens Library

Grand opening festivities for Beauvoir May 29-31 will include "Elegy in Grey," a production at the Biloxi Saenger Theatre May 29-30; opening ceremonies at the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library on Saturday, May 30; and a Jefferson Davis Memorial Service at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer on Sunday, May 31. Funds for the construction of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum were provided by the Mississippi Legislature. For details on events and lodging information, call Beauvoir, 228/388-9074.

## Plan Now to Attend Major Cultural Events

Saturday, May 2: *Frontier Mississippi, 1798-1850*, the Second Annual Mississippi Cultural Festival, Old Capitol Green, Jackson

Through November 8: *1811: Year of Wonders in the Mississippi Territory*, Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History, Jackson



Through August 31: *Splendors of Versailles*, Mississippi Arts Pavilion, Jackson

Through July 27: *Our Nation's Colors: A Celebration of American Painting*, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson

May 29-August 31: *Alsace to America: Discovering a Southern Jewish Heritage*, Mtel Centre Building, Jackson

June 3-6: Natchez Literary Celebration: "The South: Its Land and Its Literature," Natchez

## Mississippi Books

*The Burning of Bowling Green: An Illustrated History*, by Stella M. and James N. Pitts, tells the story of a plantation home in Wilkinson County and its destruction during the Civil War. Included are background on its owner, Judge Edward McGehee, the county's wealthiest and most prominent early citizen; details of the Yankee raid on the property in 1864; an inventory of the contents of the mansion prepared after the war by McGehee; and a section on McGehee family descendant and acclaimed novelist Stark Young, who wrote a fictional version of the burning of Bowling Green in his 1934 novel *So Red the Rose*.

Stella and James Pitts have also researched and written the third volume of *Woodville—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, published in 1992, and compiled the successful nomination of the Tansy Island Hunting Club in Wilkinson County. Their new book was produced with the cooperation of Mary M. McGehee of Woodville, the great-granddaughter of Judge McGehee. Copies are available at \$10 each. To order, contact Stella or James Pitts, (601) 888-6536.

*Architecture of the Old South*, written by Mills Lane with photography by Van Jones/Martin, is a series of books that survey the historic buildings of Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. Each book contains 200-350 pages and 235-450 illustrations, new and old photographs, historic prints, drawings, and plans. The books are published without profit as an educational service. The volume *Mississippi and Alabama* can be ordered at \$55 plus \$3 shipping, from the Beehive Foundation, 321 Barnard Street, Savannah, GA 31401.

*The Administration of Television Newfilm and Videotape Collections: A Curatorial Manual*, edited by Steven Davidson and Gregory Lukow, has been published by the American Film Institute, Los Angeles. A first-of-its-kind manual, the volume features a chapter by former Department audio-visual curator Dan Den Bleyker, who also served on the volume's project advisory committee. For information on ordering, write the American Film Institute, Los Angeles, CA 90027.



## Wanted: Published Genealogies for Library of Congress

The Library of Congress has one of the world's premier collections of U. S. and foreign genealogical and local historical publications—more than 40,000 family histories and over 100,000 U.S. local histories. The Library requests donations of new and reprinted volumes; if it is not possible to donate a volume, please send ordering information. Send volumes or ordering information to Information Section, LM-401, Copyright Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20559-6300.

Milt "The Judge" Hinton, legendary jazz great, received the Artist's Achievement Award at the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts ceremonies March 6. Hinton was one of six of Mississippi's outstanding artists, arts educators, and patrons honored at the event, sponsored by the Mississippi Arts Commission.

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# Mississippi History NEWSLETTER

Volume 40 No. 5

May 1998



Published by the Mississippi  
Department of Archives and History  
Elbert R. Hillard, director  
Chrissy Wilson, editor  
Please send newsletter correspondence  
to: MDAH, P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

## Art in Mississippi Volume Announced

*Art in Mississippi, 1720-1980*, by Patti Carr Black, former director of the Old Capitol Museum, will be the first volume to be published in the *Heritage of Mississippi Series*, according to former governor William F. Winter, chair of the Series, which was established by the Mississippi Historical Society. The volume, to be co-published by the University Press of Mississippi, the Society, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, offers a panoramic view of Mississippi's art heritage and includes information on hundreds of important artists, with over 200 full-color illustrations. Patti Black has brought to this task a perspective on Mississippi art informed by a lifetime dedication to art, years

of curating museum exhibitions of Mississippi artists, and, specifically for this volume, three years of intensive research in museums and private collections around the country. She has written widely about the culture of Mississippi and the South in such volumes as *Mississippi Piney Woods: a Photographic Study of Folk Architecture and Mississippi: the Thirties*, and has edited many others, including Agnes Grimstead Anderson's *Approaching the Magic Hour: Memories of Walter Anderson*.

The publication date for *Art in Mississippi, 1720-1980* is November, 1998. Watch future *Newsletters* for special purchasing information and make your plans to acquire all of the *Heritage of Mississippi* vol-

umes to be published over the next two decades. The series was initially supported by grants from the Mississippi Historical Society, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Mississippi Humanities Council. The Phil Hardin Foundation of Meridian recently announced a grant of \$60,000 to the Mississippi Historical Society to establish a revolving fund to support the publication of future Series volumes. The Phil Hardin Foundation also provided most of the funding for the publication of *Art in Mississippi* through a \$75,000 grant to the University Press of Mississippi. Other funding was granted by the Mississippi Arts Commission and by Jean Lindsey of Laurel.

## New Archives Building Under Way

ECD Architects, Jackson, are busy with the planning and design development for the new Archives building, with June 30 as the scheduled completion date for approval of interior and exterior design. After approval, construction documents will then be prepared by ECD, and the project is scheduled to be advertised for bids in January of 1999. Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held in the spring. The Department collected a considerable amount of public input regarding the design and features of the public areas and parking facilities for the new building in a series of public meetings held around the state during November and December of 1997, and this information has been conveyed to project architects. ECD Architects is a consortium of three Jackson firms: Eley Associates Architects, Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons/Ltd, and Dale and Associates Architects. Funds to renovate the War Memorial Building were also included in HB 1782, the bond bill that authorized the issuance of bonds for the construction of the new Archives and History Building and planning through construction documents of the renovation of the Charlotte Capers Building, the renovation of the Old Capitol, and the design of new museum space to be located on the Capitol Green. Robert Parker Adams, Jackson, is project architect for the War Memorial Building renovation.

## Natchez Literary Celebration: #9

Richard Ford and Will Campbell will be Mississippi authors honored at this year's Natchez Literary Celebration, to be held June 3-6, according to co-chair Carolyn Vance Smith. Governor William F. Winter will open the festival, as he has for the nine years since it began. Major speakers include Faulkner biographer Joseph Blotner, writer Clifton Taulbert, author of *Rising Tide* John Barry, director of landscapes at Colonial Williamsburg Gordon W. Chappell, and director of preservation at the Historic

Natchez Foundation Mimi Miller.

Events will include a concert by the Natchez-Vidalia Community Band, dinner on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College, a luncheon at historic Cherokee, and more. Sponsors are Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, and the Natchez National Historical Park. For more information, and to register, call 601/446-1205.

The Second Annual Mississippi Cultural Festival, *Frontier Mississippi, 1798-1850*, was held May 2 on the Old Capitol Green. Live music, delicious food, craft demonstrations, lots of children's activities, and a good crowd—plus great weather—made the festival a great success.



Volunteer David Montgomery sold out of bagelbites, onion tarts, and Old World blueberry pie.



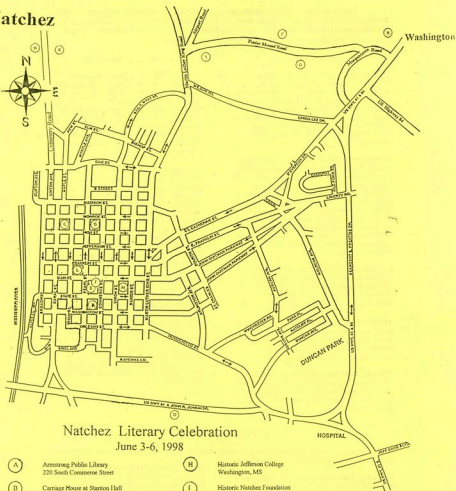
Young festival-goer with dalciner made by J. B. Keith from Clifton.



Festival guests and a reenactor admire a dough bowl carved by Jack Herring.

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# Natchez



## Natchez Literary Celebration

June 3-6, 1998

HOSPITAL

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (A) Armstrong Public Library<br>220 South Commerce Street | (H) Historic Jefferson College<br>Washington, MS             |
| (B) Carriage House at Stanton Hall<br>401 High Street     | (I) Historic Natchez Foundation<br>108 South Commerce Street |
| (C) Cherokee<br>217 High Street                           | (J) Mount Olive<br>74 Foster Mound Road                      |
| (D) Elms Court<br>John R. Junkin Drive                    | (K) Natchez City Cemetery<br>Cemetery Road                   |
| (E) First Presbyterian Church<br>117 South Pearl Street   | (L) The Natchez Gola Hotel<br>110 North Pearl Street         |
| (F) Foster Mound<br>235 Foster Mound Road                 | (M) St. Mary Catholic Church<br>107 South Union Street       |
| (G) Glen Mary<br>270 Foster Mound Road                    | (N) Weymouth Hall<br>Cemetery Road                           |

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# The University of Mississippi

Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

## Center for the Study of Southern Culture

University, MS 38677

(601) 232-5993

Fax: 232-5814

E-mail: [staff@barnard.cssc.olemiss.edu](mailto:staff@barnard.cssc.olemiss.edu)

URL: <http://www.cssc.olemiss.edu>

May 5, 1998

**TO:** State Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ann Abadie, Acting Director

**SUBJECT:** Advisory Committee Meeting in Natchez

The Center's State Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting on Saturday, June 6, during the 1998 Natchez Literary Celebration. SAC member Carolyn Vance Smith is cochair of the June 3-6 event, which will explore the theme "The South: Its Land and Its Literature." This year, for the first time, the Center is a sponsor of the Literary Celebration. Charles Reagan Wilson, who will become our new director on July 1, will present an address, "The Landscapes of Memory: Land and Culture in the American South," on June 4.

A flyer with information about the program and registration is enclosed. Most of the lectures are free, and tours and social events are priced individually at low cost. Tickets are available through the Natchez Box Office. For details, see the flyer. For lodging information and reservations, call the Eola Hotel at 445-6000 or Natchez Pilgrimage Tours at 800-647-6742. Carolyn and I hope you will plan to attend the entire Literary Celebration as well as the SAC lunch and meeting.

At noon on Saturday, June 6, SAC member John Callon has again this year invited us to gather for lunch at the conference room of Callon Petroleum Company's headquarters, located on the top floor of a beautifully restored building overlooking the Mississippi River. The address is 200 North Canal Street; telephone 442-1601. The cost of the meal, including drinks and wine, is \$16.00 a person. (Checks should be made to the caterer, Sara Blough.) Our meeting will begin immediately after lunch and will conclude no later than 4:00 p.m. Please return the enclosed form to make reservations for lunch. Or, if you prefer, you may call Scott McCraw at the Center, 232-5993.

You will soon be receiving a new issue of the *Southern Register* with announcements of a variety of Center activities, but please mark your calendars now for the following dates.

**July 25:** We will have our annual meeting on the Saturday before the opening of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. The theme for the July 26-31 program is "Faulkner and America." Conference posters and details about the SAC meeting will be forthcoming.

Visit Ole Miss On The World Wide Web  
<http://www.olemiss.edu>

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State Advisory Committee

May 5, 1998

Page 2

**October 15-17:** The 6th annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival will take place in Clarksdale. The program will include presentations by Williams authorities and friends, several performances, tours of the house and neighborhood where the playwright lived as a child, and a drama competition, with prizes totaling \$4,000 for the winners. Please encourage the high schools in your area to enter the competition. For information, call 601-627-7337.

**October 22-25:** The 7th annual Decorative Arts and Preservation Forum and the 27th annual Antiques Show will take place in Columbus and will include scholarly lectures, gala entertainments, house tours, and retail sales. The Center is a sponsor of the Forum, which will offer four lectures on this year's theme, the Arts and Crafts movement. For information, call the Columbus Historic Foundation at 601-329-3533 or the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau and 800-327-2686.

Charles and I look forward to seeing you in Natchez in June and at other events during the coming months.

Enclosures

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*Are You Thinking of*

*\* Starting a new business or industry?*

*\* Re-locating your business, industry, or office?*

*\* Re-locating your home?*

*\* Retiring?*

*Think*

## **ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**Home of such outstanding  
cultural events**

**as the**

### **NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION**

**For information, call  
The Adams County Board of Supervisors  
601-442-2431**

**or**

**The Natchez/Adams County Economic  
Community and Development Authority  
601-445-0288**

**The Ninth Annual Award-Winning  
Natchez Literary Celebration**

**"The South: Its Land and Its Literature"**

*presents*

## **LYRICS, LITERATURE, AND LAGNIAPPE**

**8 p.m., Friday, June 5, 1998  
First Presbyterian Church  
Natchez, Mississippi**

**Featuring**

**The St. Joseph Community Orchestra  
and  
Mr. Clifton Taulbert**

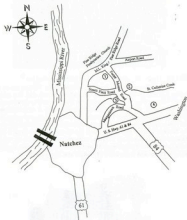
**Followed by a Reception, Book Sales and Signing, and a  
Special Exhibit in Stratton Chapel Gallery,  
"Brown's Gardens: A Verdant Vale"**

**Sponsored by  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History, Natchez National Historical Park, and The University of  
Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture**

**Mr. William F. Winter, President, Board of Trustees,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi  
Director of Proceedings**



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- 1..... Mount Olive
- 2..... Foster Mound
- 3..... Glen Mary
- 4..... Historic Jefferson College

The Ninth Annual Award-Winning  
Natchez Literary Celebration

"The South: Its Land and Its Literature"

presents

*Land Fever on Foster Mound Road*

A Guided Tour to Four Historic Adams County Sites Associated  
with the 18th-Century Pioneer Foster Family:  
Foster Mound, Glen Mary, Jefferson College, and Mount Olive

*Refreshments at Mount Olive and Old-fashioned Dinner on the Grounds  
at Jefferson College, Hosted by the Kingston Methodist Churchwomen*

4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 5, 1998

*(Buses will begin boarding at 4:15 p.m. at The Natchez Eola Hotel and will leave promptly. You  
may take your own car and follow the map, visiting any site at any time during the tour.)*



*Are You Thinking of*

*\* Starting a new business or industry?*

*\* Re-locating your business, industry, or office?*

*\* Re-locating your home?*

*\* Retiring?*

*Think*

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Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture

Mr. William F. Winter, President, Board of Trustees,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi  
Director of Proceedings



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## "The Southland's Favorite Music"

A Concert

by the St. Joseph Community Orchestra, St. Joseph, Louisiana

*Dr. Eugenia E. Robbins, Director*

*Mr. Louis DeVries, Conductor*

"The Star-Spangled Banner"	Key and Smith
"Morning"	Grieg
"In the Hall of the Mountain King"	Grieg
"Pavane for a Dead Princess"	Ravel
"March (from Symphony No. 2)"	Tchaikovsky
"The Lion Sleeps Tonight"	Weiss, Peretti, and Creature
"Andante from Symphony No. 94 in G"	Haydn
"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"	Arr. Gillis
"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"	Arr. Rothrock
"Finale from Symphony No. 5"	Beethoven

## "The Delta 'Turn Row' That Led to the World"

a Presentation by

**Mr. Clifton Taulbert, Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Pulitzer Prize-nominated author, educator, film maker, civic leader, humanitarian, and internationally recognized lecturer, Mr. Taulbert was born in Glen Allen, Mississippi, and writes of the "voices" he knows best, those from the Mississippi Delta.

He remembers the basic ideals that were instilled in him by his family and writes of them in such critically acclaimed memoirs as *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, which was made into a major motion picture he co-produced; *The Last Train North*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize; *Watching Our Crops Come In*, a young Black man's view of the Vietnam War and the emerging civil rights movement; and in 1997, *Eight Habits of the Heart: Timeless Values That Build Strong Communities*.

Mr. Taulbert was educated in Mississippi's secondary school system, served in a classified position in the 89th Presidential wing of the U.S. Air Force, earned a bachelor's degree at Oral Roberts University, and was graduated from the Southwest Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. His company developed the U.S.-wide government market for the Stairmaster Exercise System. Mr. Taulbert, his wife, Barbara, and their son, Marshall, live in Tulsa, where Mr. Taulbert serves on major boards.

\*\*\*

Following the presentation, Mr. Taulbert will be honored in Stratton Chapel with a reception, book sale, and booksigning. All are invited to attend. Upstairs in Stratton Chapel Gallery, the Norman/Gandy exhibit, "Brown's Gardens: A Verdant Vale," will be open for viewing.

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The Ninth Annual Award-Winning

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

*"The South: Its Land and Its Literature"*

presents

**LITERARY GIANTS:  
AN EVENING TO REMEMBER**

8 p.m., Saturday, June 6, 1998

The Natchez Eola Hotel

Natchez, Mississippi



Sponsored by

Copiah-Lincoln Community College,  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History,  
Natchez National Historical Park, and  
The University of Mississippi's  
Center for the Study of Southern Culture

*This event is made possible partly by financial assistance from  
the National Endowment for the Humanities through the  
Mississippi Humanities Council and Natchez Newspapers, Inc.*

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LITERARY GIANTS:  
AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

*Director of Proceedings*  
The Honorable William F. Winter  
Former Governor of Mississippi and  
President, Board of Trustees  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Jackson, Mississippi

INTRODUCTION OF

The Most Outstanding Students and Faculty Members  
in Mississippi's Community Colleges, Colleges, and Universities

AND THE WINNERS ARE....

The Presentation of the 1998 Richard Wright Literary  
Excellence Awards to Two Mississippi-Born Authors  
by Committee Chairman Dr. David Sansing,  
The University of Mississippi

\* For Non-Fiction: Mr. WILL CAMPBELL, Mount  
Juliet, Tennessee, Author of *Providence* and Other Books

\* For Fiction: Mr. RICHARD FORD, New Orleans,  
Louisiana, Author of *Independence Day* and Other Books

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Eudora Welty, 1994  
Margaret Walker Alexander, 1995  
Ellen Douglas and Willie Morris, 1996  
Elizabeth Spencer and Shelby Foote, 1997

"THE AMERICAN LAND  
AND AMERICAN WRITERS:  
ROBERT PENN WARREN  
AND WILLIAM FAULKNER"

a Presentation by

*Dr. Joseph Blotner, Professor of English Emeritus,  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

Dr. Blotner has written numerous books about Faulkner and  
has edited volumes of Faulkner's novels. In 1997 his biography of  
Warren was published to wide acclaim.

He has twice been a Fulbright Lecturer and twice a  
Guggenheim Fellow at the University of Copenhagen and has served  
as Visiting Professor at Trinity College (Connecticut), the University  
of Arizona, and the University of Rome.

Dr. Blotner has won numerous awards and professional  
recognitions and is generally considered the world's foremost  
authority on William Faulkner.

\*\*\*

A reception, book sale, and book signing honoring Mr.  
Campbell, Mr. Ford, and Dr. Blotner will take place immediately after  
the program at the Historic Natchez Foundation, 108 South Commerce  
Street, hosted by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-  
American Culture.

NOTE: Tickets are \$10 and available in the Eola Hotel lobby  
until the reception begins. Tickets will not be for sale at the reception.

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#### APRIL

NATCHEZ BLUFF BLUES FEST  
ANDREW JACKSON DAY

#### MAY

NATCHEZ OPERA FESTIVAL  
JOE FORTUNATO CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

#### JUNE

NATCHEZ BICYCLE CLASSIC  
NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION  
NATCHEZ JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION  
SOUTHERN OUTDOORSMAN EXPO  
STEAMBOAT JUBILEE & FLOOZIE CONTEST

#### JULY

LAKE ST. JOHN BLESSING OF THE FLOTILLA  
JAMMIN' FOR KIDS

#### SEPTEMBER

COPPER MAGNOLIA FESTIVAL

#### OCTOBER

NATCHEZ FALL PILGRIMAGE  
GREAT MISSISSIPPI RIVER BALLOON RACE  
GHOST TALES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

#### NOVEMBER

PILGRIMAGE GARDEN CLUB ANTIQUES FORUM  
BROADWAY BASH AND CHILI COOKOFF

#### DECEMBER

ANNUAL CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT  
CHRISTMAS IN NATCHEZ  
NATCHEZ CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE



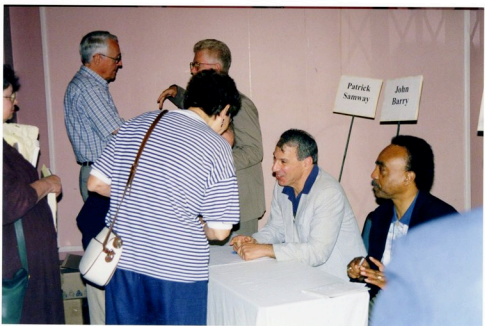
## How To Get To Natchez

- Major highways servicing Natchez are 61, 84, and 98.
- Airport Service:
  - Alexandria, LA 70 miles
  - Baton Rouge, LA 90 miles
  - Jackson, MS 115 miles
  - New Orleans, LA 172 miles
- Natchez Bus Terminal 601-445-5304

### Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 1485  
Natchez, MS 39121-1485  
1-800-647-6724  
(601) 446-6345  
(601) 442-0814 fax  
ncvb@bkbank.com  
www.bkbank.com\ncvb\ncvb

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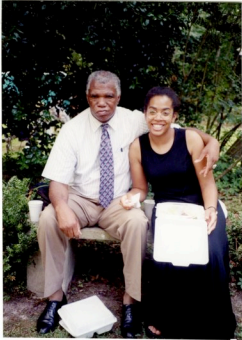
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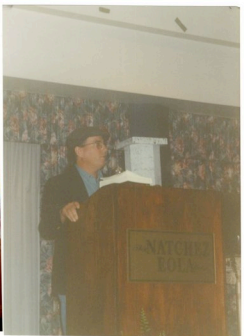
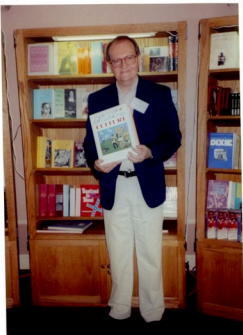
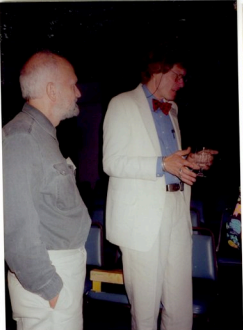
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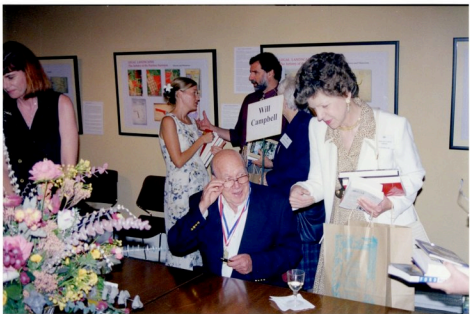
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